The MAKING of ILLINOIS

MATHER

GIFT OF:

ALICE STEEN HAMILTON

APRIL 1981

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LINCOLN STATUE,
LINCOLN PARK, CHICAGO.

THE MAKING OF ILLINOIS

HISTORICAL SKETCHES

BY

IRWIN F. MATHER, A. M.

GIFT OF:
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APR. 1981

SEATTLE GENEALOGICAL S
P. O. Box 549
Seattle, Wash. 981

CHICAGO:
A. FLANAGAN CO., PUBLISHERS
C. 1900

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PREFACE

The history of Illinois, embracing more than two centuries of discovery, exploration, settlement and development, is rich in incident and abounds in valuable lessons.

Her soil has been occupied successively by Indian, Frenchman, British and American.

The men who planted her foundations were generous, noble and brave.

Within her borders clashed and finally harmonized the principles of Cavalier and Puritan.

Her sons have become leaders in the councils of the nation and, on the field of battle, have led our armies to victory. No less famous than her statesmen and soldiers have been the commercial and industrial leaders nurtured upon her soil.

Notwithstanding so much that is honorable and glorious in her steady progress, "from a wilderness of prairies" to a great and populous State, the history of Illinois is unfamiliar to most of her citizens. The youth in her public schools are better acquainted with the early history of Virginia, or Massachusetts, than with the stirring events connected with the establishment of their native State.

The writer sends out this book with the hope that it may encourage our boys and girls in the study of the history of their State and strengthen the love for Illinois.

The author wishes to thank for helpful suggestion and kindly criticism: Mr. John E. Ferreira, of East Chicago; Supt. Walter R. Hatfield, of Pittsfield; Prof. David Felm-

ley, of Normal; Dr. Edward C. Page, of De Kalb; Dr. W. E. Simonds, of Galesburg, and Gen. P. C. Hays, of Joliet.

Many of the illustrations have been obtained through the courtesy of Mr. Charles Evans, Secretary of the Chicago Historical Association.

Supt. T. C. Clendennen, of Cairo, furnished the illustration of a Bird's-Eye View of Cairo.

The illustrations of the bronze relief tablets in the chapters on Marquette and La Salle were obtained from the Marquette Building, Chicago. The tablets pertaining to Marquette's journey were designed by the sculptor, Mr. Herman A. McNeil, a faithful student of Indian characteristics. The heads of the noted Indian Sachems and early explorers were modeled by Mr. Edward Kemeys, the sculptor whose work received wide recognition at the World's Fair.

Chicago.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

AND

BIBLIOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTORY

I. ILLINOIS - - - - - - - - 15

AUTHORITIES:—

The Mississippi Valley - - - *Foster*
Geology of Illinois - - - *Northern*
The West - - - - *R. B. Porter*
Illinois - - - - - - *Moses*
State Reports

II. THE INDIAN - - - - - - - 21

AUTHORITIES:—

History of the United States - - *McMaster*
" " " " - - - *Bancroft*
Last of the Illinois - - - *Judge J. D. Caton*
Illinois and Indiana Tribes - - *H. W. Beckwith*
Annals of the West - - - - - *Peck*
American State Papers

FRENCH AND BRITISH OCCUPATION

III. JOLLIET AND MARQUETTE - - - - - - 33

IV. LA SALLE - - - - - - - 48

V. TONTI - - - - - - - - 60

VI. La Salle's Return to Illinois - - - - - 68
Authorities:—
Narrative and Critical History of America - *Windsor*
La Salle - - - - - *Parkman*
History of Illinois - - *Davidson and Stouve*
Early Voyages - - - - - *Shea*
Historical Collection of Louisiana - - *French*
Journal of Father Marquette
The Winning of the West - - - *Rooseveldt*

VII. Old Kaskaskia and the Early French - - - - 78
Authorities:—
Catholic Missions - - - *Shea and Kip*
Early French Voyages - - - - *Gravier*
New France - - - - - *Charlevoix*
Early History of Illinois - - *Judge James Breeze*
Records of the Chicago Historical Society
Magazine of American History

VIII. Fort Chartres and the British - - - - 86
Authorities:—
Illinois in the Eighteenth Century - - *Mason*
Early Settlements of N. West Territory - *Dillon*
Montcalm and Wolfe - - - - *Parkman*
Conquest of Canada - - - - *Warburton*
Settlements on the Mississippi in 1771 - *Pittman*
French Explorations

TERRITORIAL PERIOD

IX. Col. George Rogers Clark and the American Occupation 97
Authorities:—
Pioneer History of Illinois - - *Reynolds*
Campaign in the Illinois - - - *Clark*
History of Indiana - - - - *Dillon*
Vol IX. of Michigan Pioneer Collections
Old Record Book - - - *Col. John Todd*
Conquest of the North West - *Wm. H. English*

X. The Ordinance of 1787 - - - - - 112
Authorities:—
The St. Clair Papers
Charters and Constitutions - - - *Poore*
Laws and Journals of Congress
Illinois - - - - - - *Moses*

XI. THE ILLINOIS PIONEERS - - - - - - 117
AUTHORITIES:—
History of Indiana - - - - *Dillon*
Pioneer History - - - - - *Reynolds*
Illinois - - - - - - *Moses*

XII. THE ILLINOIS RANGERS - - - - - 123

XIII. THE BLOCK HOUSES AND OLD FORT DEARBORN - - 129
AUTHORITIES:—
Field Book of War of 1812 - - - *Lossing*
History of Illinois - - - - *Edwards*
" " " - - - - *Ford*
My Own Times - - - - *Reynolds*
Fort Dearborn - - - - *John Wentworth*
Illinois - - - - - - - *Moses*
History of Illinois - - - - *Brown*

XIV. KEEL BOATS - - - - - - 133

STATE PERIOD

XV. STATEHOOD AND THE CONSTITUTIONS - - - 141
AUTHORITIES:—
Fergus' Historical Series—Chicago
Illinois - - - - - - *Moses*

XVI. THE FIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY - - - - 149
AUTHORITIES:—
Sketch of Edward Coles - - - *Washburn*
Memoirs of E. P. Lovejoy
Alton Riots

XVII. OUR STATE CAPITALS - - - - - 157
AUTHORITIES:—
Illinois - - - - - - - *Moses*
History of Illinois - - - - - *Ford*
Life of Edwards - - - - - *Edwards*
Report of Geo. Forquier—Senate Journal, Session 1834-35
American State Papers, Vols. XX, XXI

XVIII. NAUVOO AND MORMONS - - - - - 165
AUTHORITIES:—
Atlantic Monthly, December, 1869 - *John Hay*
History of Mormonism - - - *Howe*
Ms. of Solomon Spaulding

XIX. TRANSPORTATION - - - - - - 170

XX. ILLINOIS IN THE MEXICAN WAR - - - - 179
AUTHORITIES:—
History of the American War - - *Mansfield*
The Other Side, or a Mexican History of the War Translated by - - *Alex. C. Ramsey*
History of the Battle of Buena Vista - *Colton*

XXI. LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS - - - - - 185
AUTHORITIES:—
Abraham Lincoln, a History - *Nicolay and Hay*
McClure's Magazine
Abraham Lincoln - - - *P. A. Hanaford*
The Pioneer Boy

CIVIL WAR PERIOD

XXII. ILLINOIS IN THE GREAT WAR - - - - 199
AUTHORITIES:—
Grant's and Sherman's Memoirs
The Story of the Fifty-fifth Illinois - *Crooker*
History of Illinois - - *Davidson and Stouve*
Century Magazine
Illinois, Vol. II - - - - - *Moses*

XXIII. CHICAGO - - - - - - - 209

XXIV. OUR STATE INSTITUTIONS - - - - - 224

XXV. EDUCATION IN ILLINOIS - - - - - 229
AUTHORITIES:—
State Reports
Reports of State Supt.
Pioneer History of Illinois
College Catalogues

APPENDIX - - - - - - - - 237
GOVERNORS OF ILLINOIS - - - - - 263
NOTABLE ILLINOIS DATES - - - - - 263

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	Page.
Statue of Abraham Lincoln, Lincoln Park	Frontispiece
The Chicago Historical Association Building	7
The Great Seal of Illinois	14
Material From Which Coal Was Made	17
Chicagou	23
Black Hawk	25
Starved Rock	27
Indian Tribes of Illinois (Map)	29
Departure of Marquette	34
Jolliet	37
Totem of the Illinois	38
The Piasa God (From an old drawing)	40
Death of Marquette	46
La Salle	49
Tonti	61
Nika	72
Flag of France	77
Kaskaskia From Fort Gage	81
A Plan of the French Villages	85
Fort Chartres (From Painting in State House)	88
Forts and Settlements of the Early French (Map)	94
Col. George Rogers Clark	98
Gen. Arthur St. Clair	114
View of First Fort Dearborn	132
Ninian Edwards	141
Judge Nathaniel Pope	142
Shadrach Bond	146
Pierre Menard	148
Gov. Edward Coles	149

First Capitol (Kaskaskia)..... 157
Second Capitol (Vandalia)..... 159
Third Capitol Building, Springfield..... 161
Fourth State Capitol, Springfield..... 164
Bird's-eye View of Cairo..... 174
Lincoln Monument, Springfield..... 188
Lincoln's Home, Springfield..... 191
Stephen A. Douglas..... 193
General U. S. Grant..... 200
View of Chicago in 1821..... 210
John Kinsey's House..... 213
Waterworks Tower..... 216
Auditorium Building..... 217
Field Museum..... 219
Art Institute, Chicago..... 221
Grant Statue, Lincoln Park..... 223
Library Building, State University..... 233
Kent Chemical Laboratory, University of Chicago..... 236

INTRODUCTORY

"By thy rivers gently flowing,
Illinois, Illinois,
O'er thy prairies, verdant growing
Illinois, Illinois,
Comes an echo on the breeze,
Rustling through the leafy trees,
And its mellow tones are these,
Illinois, Illinois,
And its mellow tones are these,
Illinois."

GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
NATIONAL UNION
STATE SOVEREIGNTY
AUG 26TH 1818

CHAPTER I.

ILLINOIS.

The State of Illinois is a gently sloping tableland. Its extreme length is three hundred and eighty-five miles, and an extreme width of two hundred and eighteen miles. It is larger in area than New England without Maine. If Illinois were laid upon the Atlantic coast, it would stretch from Boston, Mass., to Old Point Comfort in Virginia. With the exception of a broken, hilly ridge of land that crosses the southern portion of the State from west to east, the surface of Illinois is nearly level, and slopes from an altitude of eleven hundred and seventy five feet above the sea on the north, to Cairo, where the altitude is but three hundred and fifty feet.

Including the boundary rivers, Illinois possesses many hundreds of miles of navigable waterways. These streams, furnishing a ready means of transportation, were important factors in the early development of the State. A northern tributary to the Illinois River takes its rise in the broad, flat prairies within cannon shot of Lake Michigan. At an early day a canal was constructed, connecting this river with the lake, thus forming a continuous water passage from the Atlantic Ocean, by way of the St. Lawrence, to the Gulf of Mexico.

Closely linked to both the Northern and the Southern States by lake and river, Illinois lies wholly within that great temperate belt that has been the birthplace of the most ag-

gressive peoples of the world. In the heart of the Mississippi Valley, a region capable of feeding the human race for ages, Illinois is essentially a farming State, and grows within her borders nearly every staple food product of the world. To illustrate the wealth of her agricultural resources, it may be said that the value of all the gold and silver mined in the United States during the year A. D. 1890, was $103,310,000. The value of the farm products of Illinois for the same year was $184,759,013.

While nature bestowed upon Illinois so productive a soil, she also filled the earth beneath with an abundant store of minerals. The geologist tells us that millions of years ago, when the earth was young, upon the bare ribs of rock, were laid great deposits of limestone and sandstone. The "Niagara" limestone, appearing here and there throughout the northern portion of the State, is extensively quarried. This stone entered largely into the construction of the Capitol building at Springfield, and the Eads Bridge at St. Louis. Another deposit of limestone, which has added to the wealth of Illinois, contains lead and zinc. This ore galinite gave name to the city of Galena because of the mines opened in that region.

Above these layers of limestone is found a deposit called "St. Peter's Sandstone." Because of its purity and freedom from coloring matter, this sandstone is extensively used at Alton, and other places, in the manufacture of glass. Starved Rock and other picturesque bluffs upon the Illinois River are of this formation.

Above these deposits, are found many layers of limestone and sandstone containing fossils of various kinds,

MATERIAL FROM WHICH COAL WAS MADE.

which are records of the earlier vegetable and animal life of the globe.

These deposits were succeeded by the coal measures. The warm, moist atmosphere of that period rendered vegetation luxuriant. Great forests covered the slopes and hills, and impenetrable jungles spread over the marshy plains. Pine trees lifted their stately heads side by side with the graceful lepidodendron. Gigantic ferns raised their tufted fronds high in the steamy air. Many other strange growths flourished in these ancient forests. One peculiar tree, the sigillarid, had a large, fluted trunk, which resembled a clustered column. Thirty feet from its base extended immense branches, covered with a grass-like foliage. The bark of such a tree, five feet in diameter, was thirteen inches thick. The wood was in the form of a cylinder and enclosed a ten-inch column of pith. Caterpillars and snails crawled upon the slimy banks of streams; within the swamps and seas dwelt many huge creatures having forms resembling frogs and lizards; bright-hued butterflies, beetles and dragonflies arose in brilliant clouds above the tropical foliage.

As ages passed, these forests gradually sank with the soil in which they grew and became imbedded in the miry deposits, or were swept by dark rivers into shallow lakes. Through the agency of heat and pressure this embedded vegetation was gradually transformed into coal.

Two-thirds of the surface of Illinois is underlaid by these vast coal deposits, every layer of which corresponds to an ancient forest and varies in thickness from a few inches to eleven feet. In some counties these veins of coal are sometimes near the surface; in others, shafts are sunk to

a depth of several hundred feet. As it requires eight cubic feet of wood to form one cubic foot of coal, these ancient forests must have been growing for ages.

England, the greatest coal consuming nation of the world, possesses twelve thousand square miles of coal measures. It is estimated that the coal energy produced by the coal consumed in that country in a single day is equal to the power furnished by nineteen servants for each inhabitant, and that at this rate of consumption the coal supply of Great Britain will be exhausted in two hundred and fifty years. At the same rate, the coal measures of Illinois would furnish England with mechanical power and heat for one hundred thousand years.

Above the coal are layers of sandstone and limestone. One of these deposits, the "Burlington" limestone, furnished the material to build the court house at Monmouth. From another, the "Keokuk" limestone, was constructed the Mormon Temple at Nauvoo, the Custom House at Galena, and the Postoffice at Springfield. A fine quality of lime is made from a third deposit, the St. Louis limestone. The city of Joliet owes much of its importance to the splendid quarries of limestone found in its vicinity.

As time went on, many strange creatures appeared upon the earth. Great beasts roamed the forests; frightful reptiles sported in the rivers and shallow seas. This is called the age of Mammoths. During this period, the waters of the Gulf of Mexico receded from a few miles below the mouth of the Ohio River to their present limits. The peninsula of Florida was raised above the sea, and the ranges of the Rocky Mountains were uplifted.

The period of Mammoths was followed by the Ice age;

tropical heat was succeeded by arctic cold. Great floes of ice and towering bergs, carrying soil and rocks from the distant North, drifted southward. In this manner the surface of the State was covered with a mass of rock and gravel to a depth of two hundred feet at the north. The thickness of this deposit gradually decreases, until, at the southern border, it almost disappears.

Upon the disintegrating mass of mineral, vegetation grew luxuriantly, covering the earth with a rich carpet of verdure that, decaying, formed the black soil of the prairies and the deep loam of the bottom lands.

By this process there were released from the rocks those mysterious elements which give beauty to the flower, color to the fruit and substance to the grain.

The wealth of this soil, supplemented by the industry of the husbandman, has given to Illinois her exalted position as the first agricultural State in the Nation.

CHAPTER II.

THE INDIAN.

When first explored, Illinois, like other portions of our country, was inhabited by the red men. How many years they had dwelt here or what peoples they displaced, we do not know. There are historians who believe that they were preceded by another race, who built beautiful palaces and large cities which long ago crumbled into dust. Others suppose that mounds, and various evidences of an earlier occupation of the territory, were the works of the ancestors of the Indian.

When the Europeans discovered America they found the Indians living in small villages or scattered in roving bands. Indians east of the Mississippi River have been classified in groups, each embracing several tribes more or less connected by ties of blood, and these groups placed in three general divisions: the Muskhogees, who lived south of the Tennessee River and comprised the Choctaw, the Chickasaw, Creek and Seminole tribes; the Iroquois, who occupied the territory extending from the Hudson and Delaware Rivers westward to the Great Lakes and north to the St. Lawrence. These warlike people included the famous five Nations of New York,—Mohawk, Oneida, Onandagua, Cayuga and Seneca, and also the Cherokees, Hurons, Eries and the Tuscaroras.

And finally the powerful Algonquin family, who occupied the remaining territory east of the Mississippi River.

This family embraced the Narragansetts, Pequots and Mohegans of New England; the Powhatans and Delawares of Virginia; the Shawnees, who dwelt on the Ohio, and a large number of the tribes living on the shores of the Great Lakes.

Everywhere the early voyagers came in contact with these people. The French found them upon the banks of the St. Lawrence. It was an Algonquin who came into the village of the Pilgrim, shouting "Welcome! Englishman!" An Algonquin greeted Roger Williams as he landed on the site of the future city of Providence, with the words, "What cheer?" Captain John Smith bought corn from them in Virginia; William Penn made his treaty with them in the shade of the Pennsylvania elm; the Jesuit missionaries baptized them with the waters of the Mississippi.

The Indian knew nothing of the value of iron or other metals, but fashioned their simple implements or weapons out of stone and bone. Their dress was made from the skin of animals or the fiber of some kinds of bark, and their rude huts were covered with the same materials. Their only musical instrument gave forth discordant sounds.

Improvident to the extreme they cultivated the soil but little, and depended almost entirely upon the chase. Hunting and dancing constituted their chief enjoyments. "Their great business in life was to procure food and devour it, to subdue their enemies and scalp them. It is probable that if they had never come in contact with the whites, they would have remained untamed, savage and ignorant."

To such a people the "Illinois country," with its rolling

prairies, the feeding-ground of buffalo and deer; its forests filled with bears and panthers; its navigable rivers over which their canoes could be propelled with little exertion, offered a congenial home. Seven different nations dwelt in the region, and although they all belonged to the Algonquin family, they were constantly at war among themselves. In the southeast were adventurous Shawnees, who had come from Georgia. This tribe produced the great Tecumseh. North of them and extending to the Lakes, lived the brave and sagacious Miamis, who were always opposed to the white men, and greatly retarded the early settlement of the country.

CHICAGOU.
Illinois Chief, Who Visited France in 1725.

West of the Miamis were the fierce Kickapoos, who occupied the lands along the Vermillion and Sangamon

Rivers. Here they lived for a hundred years until they were driven westward by the whites.

The Pottawattomies drifted westward from the St. Lawrence River, and divided into three sections, one of which settled upon the headwaters of the Kankakee and Illinois Rivers.

The Winnebagos lived to the west, but were driven northward beyond the bounds of the present State, and finally settled near Green Bay. These people distinguished themselves in various wars against the whites.

The restless Sacs and Foxes settled upon Rock River, and for a hundred years were a menace to the early settlers of Illinois.

Between these various peoples and occupying the fairest lands, dwelt the Illini or Illinois Indians, a term signifying "real men."

The Illinois, a powerful confederation composed of the Kaskaskias, Tamaroas, Cahokias, Peorias and Mitchigamies, laid claim to all the lands from the sources of the Illinois River westward to the Mississippi and southward to the Ohio. Their favorite meeting ground was in Central Illinois. Here upon the Illinois River, near the present village of Utica, was located the largest of their seventeen villages, which they called Kaskaskia. Upon Peoria Lake was the chief town of the Peorias, while, nearly opposite the present site of St. Louis, the Cahokias and Tamaroas had established their chief village.

One of the French missionaries, Father Membré, speaking of these Illinois Indians, states that, while they were "tall of stature, strong and robust, the swiftest runners in the world and good archers," they were "idle, revengeful,

jealous, cunning, dissolute and thievish." On the fertile meadows that lined the banks of the rivers the squaws and old men cultivated vegetables and Indian corn, which they stored in rude caves for winter use. These Illinois Indians waged constant war with the neighboring tribes, who wanted to possess their splendid hunting grounds. Victory was usually upon their side, for they were brave and sagacious. Their most dreaded foes were the fierce Iroquois, whose home was south of distant Lake Erie, and who sometimes made the long journey across the intervening territory to fight them. The early French were kindly received by the Illinois Indians, who hoped to procure firearms from them, and, with their assistance, to subdue the common foe. The friendship established be-

BLACK HAWK,
Chief of the Sacs and Foxes.

tween them lasted as long as the French remained in Illinois.

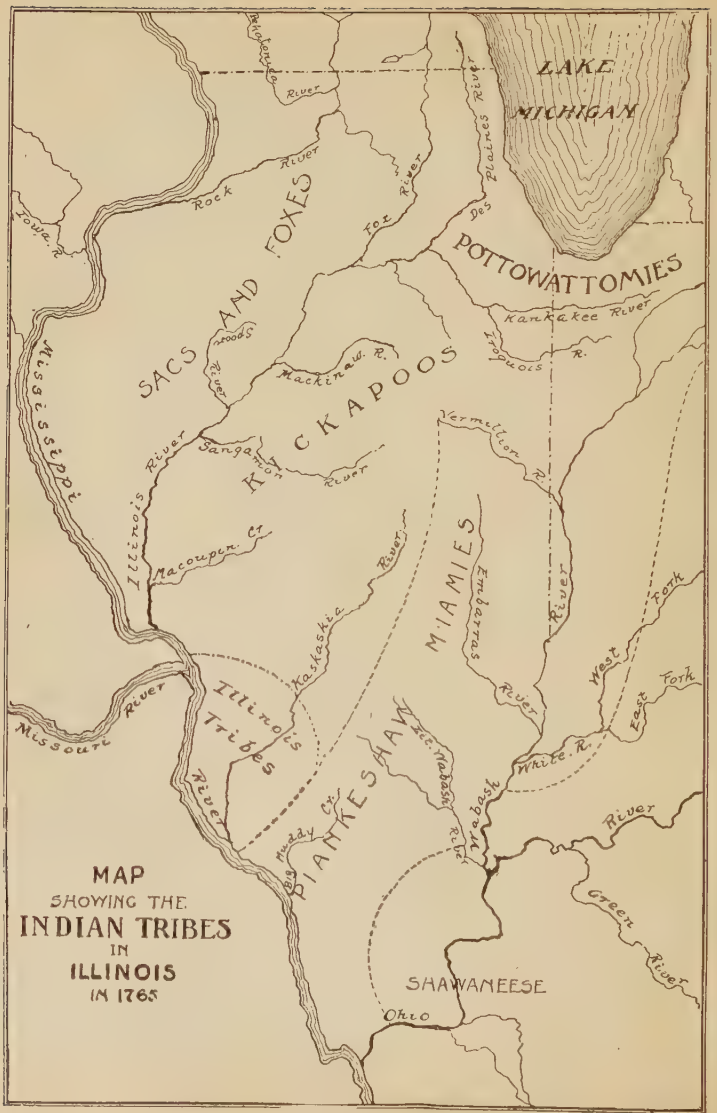
Near the close of the seventeenth century, the Iroquois, possibly encouraged by the English, sent six hundred picked warriors against the Illinois. The attack was a surprise; twelve hundred Illinois warriors were killed, and the entire tribe was scattered. After the Iroquois went back to Lake Erie, many Illinois returned to their homes, but their strength was broken. Hemmed in by relentless tribes, their numbers steadily diminished. In 1769 the remnant of the band, pursued by the Pottawattomies, was compelled to take refuge on the site of old Fort St. Louis.

Here they could have defended themselves for a long time, as the rock is impregnable and provisions were not lacking. But water could be obtained only from the river far below, by means of a vessel attached to the end of a grape vine. The Pottawattomies, concealed near the base of the cliff, seized the vessels as they were lowered. In vain did the Illinois attempt to get their water supply in the middle of the darkest nights, and at last, famishing with thirst, they slowly starved to death, only one escaping to tell the tale of their sufferings. The promonotory on the Illinois River, where this tragic event occurred, received the name of Starved Rock.

Thus miserably perished, hunted to death by their own kindred, the last of that confederation which at one time constituted the most powerful people of the Illinois valley.

The Indians were destined to give place to a stronger race. By treaty and conquest, the remaining tribes were finally removed, and Illinois became the possession of the white man.

STARVED ROCK.



MAP
SHOWING THE
INDIAN TRIBES
IN
ILLINOIS
IN 1765

THE BLACK HAWK WAR.

The Black Hawk War was the last united effort of the Indian tribes to drive the whites from the soil of Illinois.

At the opening of the Nineteenth century the Sacs and Foxes occupied the entire territory included between the Rock River and the Mississippi.

On November 3d, 1804, by a treaty made at St. Louis between General Harrison and five chiefs representing the Sacs and Foxes and the Winnebago tribes, these lands were ceded to the United States, with the understanding that the Indians would leave the territory when the lands were required by the whites for "actual settlement."

During the war of 1812 some Indians who were opposed to the conditions of this treaty, under the leadership of Black Hawk, sided with the British and were known as "The British Band." The remaining Sacs and Foxes, with Keokuk, the principal chief of the tribe, opposed the policy of aggression against the United States.

At the close of the war of 1812 Black Hawk established his village at the confluence of the Rock and the Mississippi Rivers. All went well with the Indians until 1830, when Keokuk, without the knowledge of the rival chief, made a final cession of all lands held by his tribe east of the Mississippi River. The treaty further provided that Black Hawk and his band were to give up their villages, corn fields and hunting grounds during the following year. When the veteran warrior heard the news he was thoroughly aroused and declared both treaties to have been obtained through fraud. Without delay he strove to unite all Indians in the common cause of resisting the whites. In the meantime

Keokuk and his band quietly crossed to the west bank of the Mississippi River.

When Black Hawk and his Indians returned from their winter hunting trip in the spring of 1831 they discovered that the very ground on which their village stood had been purchased by a fur-trader who was preparing to plant a corn field of seven hundred acres which the Indians had cultivated for years. The indignant chief was for immediate war, but temperate counsels prevailed and the field was finally divided between the white man and the chief with the understanding that each was to cultivate his respective half. But constant disputes arose and in May eight white men united in a memorial of grievance to Governor Reynolds. A call for volunteers, to protect settlers, was made without delay. Early in June General Gaines, commander of the military district, arrived at Fort Armstrong, on Rock Island, prepared to execute the orders of the Governor.

Black Hawk and his band were persuaded to cross the Mississippi and the soldiers took possession of the Indian village. Finding that the Indians were not inclined to be hostile, rations were issued to them and the volunteer soldiers were dismissed.

Early in the spring of 1832 Black Hawk and his men recrossed the Mississippi and marched up the Rock River, declaring that they were going to their friends, the Winnebagoes, who lived in Wisconsin, for the purpose of planting corn. General Atkinson, in command at Fort Armstrong, warned him to return, but undeterred, Black Hawk pressed on to Dixon's ford, where he pitched his camp.*

*Related by a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dixon.

Mrs. Dixon invited the chief and his friends to dine with her and treated him with much courtesy. Black Hawk never forgot the respectful attentions shown him by this woman.

The news of Black Hawk's return to Illinois quickly reached Governor Reynolds, who immediately sent General Whiteside with eighteen hundred volunteers to expel the intruder from the State. When General Whiteside reached Dixon he learned that Black Hawk was encamped upon the banks of Sycamore Creek, thirty miles distant. A force of nearly three hundred men, in command of an ambitious officer, named Stillman, was sent forward to reconnoiter. Black Hawk was feasting his Winnebago friends at the time and sent six of his warriors, under the protection of a white flag, to meet the approaching party. The undisciplined volunteers fired upon the Indians, killing two of their number. Justly aroused, Black Hawk commanded his men to give battle and the volunteer force was driven back in confusion, leaving eleven of their number dead upon the field. These were the first white men killed in the Black Hawk war.

The alarm of an Indian war rapidly spread among the exposed settlements and farms. Chiefly through the aid of the noble old Pottawattomie chief, Shebana, the settlers, in the region of Bureau Creek were warned and fled for safety to Ottawa. Those near Plainfield and Naperville found shelter at Fort Dearborn. A few families upon Indian Creek, who refused to heed the warning, were murdered, and two little girls, Sylvia and Rachel Hall, were carried into captivity.

General Whiteside immediately marched to the scene of Stillman's defeat, but Black Hawk had moved northward.

The soldiers who had volunteered for Indian service had seen enough of fighting and as their terms of enlistment had expired refused to pursue the chief and his band.

Two thousand more men were speedily enlisted, but in the interim Black Hawk and his warriors were preying upon the settlements near Galena. The most notable attack in this region was upon the Apple River fort, where Elizabeth now stands. The Indians besieged the place for an entire day, but the brave garrison defended the fort so gallantly that Black Hawk withdrew and turned his attention to an attacking force approaching under Colonel Dement. These troops came very near falling into an ambuscade, but escaped in safety to the shelter of buildings at Kellogg's grove. From this position the Indians were unable to dislodge them.

A more formidable army was now sent against the Indians, and Black Hawk retreated northward intending to save himself by crossing the Mississippi River. At Blue Mounds, upon the banks of the Wisconsin River, he was overtaken by General Henry and a battle ensued on July 21st, in which the Indians lost about fifty warriors. The Indians continued their retreat until August 2d, when they were again overtaken near the mouth of Bad Ax River. Here a fierce battle was fought and almost all in Black Hawk's band were killed or drowned.

Broken hearted the veteran warrior fled to a Winnebago village and gave himself up to two chiefs, who delivered him to the Indian agent, General Street, at Prairie du Chien.

General Scott, with nine companies of troops, had arrived at Fort Dearborn, but his men were stricken with cholera and he took little or no part in the campaign. When his men recovered they were marched to a de

serted Indian village between the present site of Beloit and Tuttle Creek, and soon after proceeded to Fort Armstrong.

Early in September Black Hawk and his captured warriors were sent to Jefferson Barracks, near St. Louis. The following spring the famous warrior was carried to Washington City and thence sent to Fortress Monroe. After a trial he was returned to his own people as nothing but "honorable warfare" could be charged against him.

In the cities of the East he attracted much attention and won compliments from every side. He told the legislators that the day would come when the courts of justice and prisons of the white men would be powerless to protect society from criminals that the white man's civilization fostered and developed.* "Serious predictions," remarked Wendell Phillips, "and it is a warning worth heeding."

Black Hawk was restored to his tribe as a chief subordinate to Keokuk, and established his home on the banks of the beautiful Des Moines River. Here he lived in peace and contentment until his death, which occurred on October 3d, 1835. His friends buried him in a sitting posture and erected above the grave a large mound of earth.

Black Hawk has been called "the last native defender of the soil of Illinois."

The character of Black Hawk is beyond reproach as a man of honor, full of noble and generous aspirations. Victor Hugo, basing his opinion of him on the reports of his enemies alone, in his Jersey speech, declared him the peer of "any patriot, and as much above Alexander, Scipio, Napoleon and such barbarians, as the moon in its zenith is above the earth."

*Drake.

FRENCH AND BRITISH OCCUPATION

CHAPTER III.

*JOLLIET AND MARQUETTE.

The St. Lawrence River, flowing eastward, empties the waters of the Great Lakes into the Atlantic Ocean, directly opposite the continent of Europe. This noble stream was discovered in 1534 by Jacques Cartier, who took possession of the entire country drained by it, for the King of France. By the middle of the seventeenth century, the French were making extensive plans to occupy this territory and establish a great empire.

Treaties were made with the Indians, and a thriving trade in furs was carried on with the remote tribes dwelling on the distant shores of the Great Lakes. A chain of trading and military posts was established which served to overawe the savage, and for many years prevented the advance of the English. The strongly fortified cities of Quebec and Montreal became centers of military power and commercial operations in the New World.

Among the bold spirits who laid the foundations of New France in America, none are more worthy of honor and admiration than the early Catholic missionaries. These men, actuated by a religious enthusiasm, boldly explored the trackless wilderness and planted their humble missions among remote and savage tribes.

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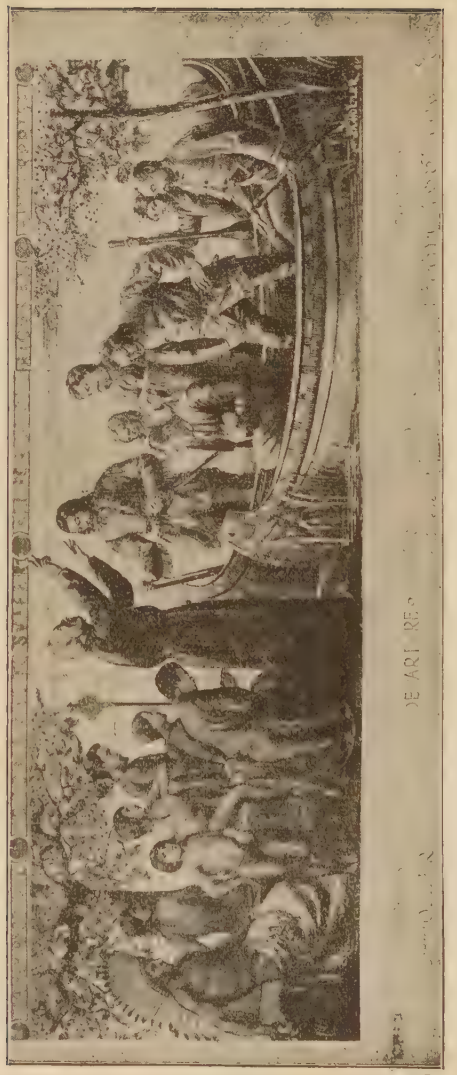
*This spelling is given in an autograph letter now in the possession of the Chicago Historical Society. Marquette also uses it in his Journal.



The illustrious Jacques Marquette was among the most zealous of these devoted men. Born of an honorable French family he early consecrated himself to the service of the Church, and in 1666, was sent by the Jesuit Order to the Indian missions upon the St. Lawrence River. A store-house and cluster of log cabins constituted a trading post at the mouth of the Saguenay River. Here the young priest was stationed and devoted himself so zealously to the study of the Indian language, that in two years he had mastered

six of the dialects. Burning with a desire to labor among more remote tribes, Marquette obtained permission to preach to the Indians of the Upper Lake region. With none but Indian guides he ascended the Ottawa River, threaded his way through the forests, crossed Lake Nippissing, and penetrated as far west as Point St. Esprit on Lake Superior. Everywhere he won the friendship of the simple red men by the gentleness of his manner and the purity of his life.

At length he was placed in charge of the mission of St. Ignace, which had been established by Father Allouez, at Mackinac. From wandering bands of savages who came under the sway of his influence, Father Marquette heard of a mighty river to the west, and became filled with a desire to preach the gospel to the tribes that dwelt upon its banks.

The Court in far-away France was also anxious to discover this mysterious river. On June 4, 1672, the French minister wrote to the Governor of New France that there was "nothing more important for the colony than the discovery of a passage to the South Sea. His majesty wishes you to give it your attention." Thus urged, Frontenac entered upon the task with much enthusiasm. In November of the same year he instructed Sieur Louis Jolliet, a Quebec fur-trader and "a man of great experience in this kind of exploration," to "discover the South Sea by the Moskouten's country and the great river Mississippi, which is believed to empty into the California Sea."

It now became necessary to select a missionary to accompany the expedition, and the choice fell upon Mar-

quette, who received a letter bidding him prepare for the journey.

The message was delivered upon the festival of the Immaculate Conception, and so great was the missionary's joy that he resolved to name the first church he should establish in the unexplored region "The Mission of the Immaculate Conception."

On the seventeenth of May, 1673, Jolliet and Marquette, in two birch canoes, driven by the strong arms of five French boatmen, proceeded along the western shore of Green Bay to the mission station of St. Xavier. From this point they paddled up the shallow waters of the Fox River; the boatmen were equally skillful with the axe, rifle and paddle. At evening the canoes were drawn upon the pebbly shores and a hut of boughs was speedily made, before which a cheerful camp-fire chased back the darkness of the night. The forest supplied game, and the streams fish in abundance. The difficult task of dragging their boats over the tumultuous rapids was finally accomplished, and at length they crossed Winnebago Lake and entered the quiet waters of the upper Fox River. The stream threaded its way amid rice swamps, the feeding ground of large flocks of water fowl.

On the seventh day of June they reached an Indian village which the good Father describes as, "standing on the crown of a hill, while all around, the prairie stretched beyond the sight, interspersed with groves and belts of tall forests."

Marquette was delighted to find in the center of the village a large cross, erected by a former missionary, decorated with rude offerings of skins, belts, bows and arrows.

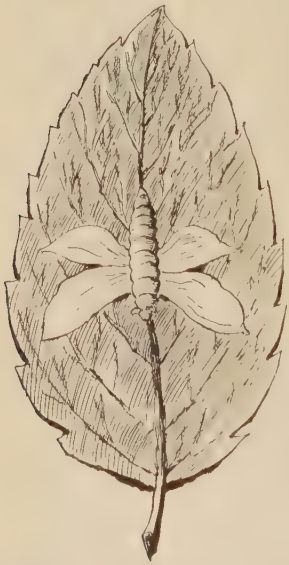
The simple red men were greatly surprised that these seven voyagers were desirous of exploring an unknown wilderness beset by countless dangers.

When at length the strangers were ready to depart, the people of the village accompanied them to the water's edge, and provided guides to conduct them through the windings of the stream. Arriving at the portage, the frail canoes, lifted to the shoulders of the men, were carried through marsh and forest to the head waters of the Wisconsin River. Here the friendly Indians left them.

JOLLIET.

Launching their boats, the travelers floated down the turbulent waters amidst scenes of imposing beauty. On the seventeenth day of June, 1673, they were filled with joy on beholding the majestic flood of

the Mississippi rolling before them. Its strong current bore them rapidly into solitudes never before visited by white men. Tall crags lifted their heads hundreds of feet into the air. Bluffs of stupendous size jutted into the river. Prairies dotted with groves and gemmed with flowers swept away from them on either side like emerald seas. Herds of deer and buffalo were continually in sight. Again, the river rolled between primeval forests, the homes of wolves, bears and panthers.



TOTEM OF THE ILLINOIS.

At the end of two weeks they discovered a broad trail which led westward into the interior of the country. Leaving the five men to guard the boats, Jolliet and Marquette followed the path for a distance of six miles, and suddenly came upon a large Indian village. Great was the consternation of the natives at the unexpected arrival of the white men.

When the first commotion had subsided, four chiefs, bearing aloft peace pipes, advanced to meet the strangers. "To what nation do you belong?" asked Marquette.

"We are Illinois," one of the chiefs replied. "In token of peace, we have brought you our pipes to smoke. We invite you to our village."

At the door of the large wigwam, a chief stood to receive

them. Raising his hands to the sun, he exclaimed: "How beautiful is the sun, O Frenchmen, when you come to visit us. All our people welcome you."

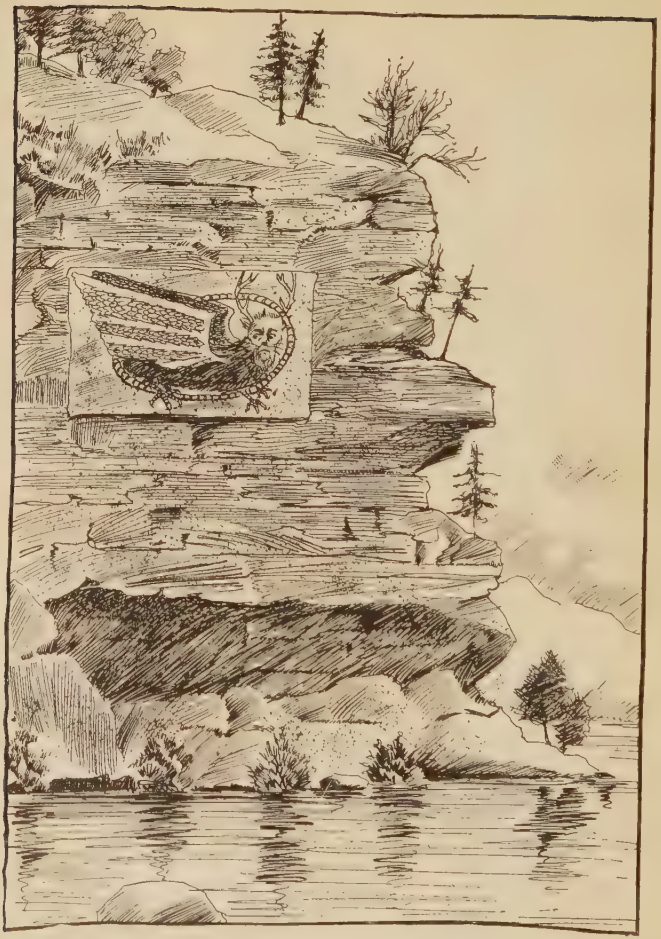
Conducted into the presence of the great chief of the Illinois, whose lodge was not far distant, they were received with every mark of respect, and after kind words and presents had been exchanged, the chief gave to Marquette a calumet or peace pipe, the bowl of polished redstone, the stem decorated with feathers.

"This is the sacred calumet," said the old man. "It signifies that wherever you bear it, you are the messenger of peace. All our tribes will respect it, and it will protect you from harm. I beg of you in behalf of the whole nation," continued the chief, "not to go any farther down the river, for your lives will be in the greatest peril."

At the close of the council a great feast was served in their honor, consisting of four courses. The first course was a pudding of pounded corn. With a horn spoon one of the chiefs deftly fed the Frenchmen from a wooden dish. The second course consisted of broiled fish. The same Indian carefully removed the bones and placed the meat, bit by bit, in the mouths of the guests, much as a bird might feed its young. The third course of broiled dog, considered a delicacy by the Indians, was not relished by the white men. But the last course, of choice and tender buffalo meat, was much more to their liking.

After the feast, the guests were led into each one of the hundred wigwams, where they were kindly treated, and given many presents.

The next morning, six hundred of their entertainers accompanied Jolliet and Marquette to the canoes. It is



THE PIASA GOD.
From an old drawing.

probable that this meeting occurred near the mouth of the Des Moines River.

Resuming their journey, the voyagers floated out upon the current of the stream. Passing the mouth of the Illinois River, they glided beneath the picturesque Piasa bluffs and, with astonishment, discovered upon the smooth surface of the cliff the hideous figures of two Indian gods, painted in gorgeous colors.

Marquette relates that, "Each of these frightful figures had the face of a man, the horns of a deer, the beard of a tiger, and the tail of a fish, so long that it passed around the head and between the legs. It was an object of Indian worship, and greatly impressed me with the need of substituting for this monstrous idolatry the worship of the true God."

"As we discoursed of them," continues Marquette, "sailing down beautifully clear water, we heard the noise of a rapid on which we were about to fall. I have seen nothing more frightful. A mass of large trees, entire, with branches, came floating from the mouth of the river, so impetuously that we could not, without great danger, expose ourselves to pass across. The agitation was so great that the water was all muddy and could not get clear."

This stream was the Missouri, which rushes down from its distant source in the mountains, and renders turbid the waters of the Mississippi for the rest of its course.

In a few days they reached the mouth of the Ohio, whose clear waters were a striking contrast to the murky flood of the Missouri.

As the voyagers proceeded southward, the banks of the Mississippi became low and marshy, and were covered

by dense fields of cane, from which arose clouds of mosquitoes.

One morning upon the eastern bank of the stream they beheld a band of Indians, armed with guns. When the peace pipe was held aloft, the savages invited the strangers to the land and prepared for them a feast of white plums, buffalo meat and bear's oil.

Bidding adieu to these simple people, the travelers resumed their journey through stretches of forest and swamp. A few miles above the mouth of the Arkansas they suddenly came in sight of a large Indian village, situated a few feet above the level of the water. These Indians had probably been mistreated by the Spaniards, for on perceiving the white men, they approached with fierce war whoops and uplifted weapons.

Some leaped into canoes and pushed out from the shore, others fitted arrows to their bows and rushed to the attack. While vainly waving his peace pipe, Father Marquette narrowly escaped a war club, which a warrior furiously hurled. At length the older chiefs, who had arrived and discovered the peaceable intentions of the strangers, called off the warriors and invited the Frenchmen to land. Trembling, they obeyed, not knowing what was in store for them. An old Indian chief was found who could speak the Illinois dialect, and after friendly relations were established, the Indians prepared a feast for their guests. The next morning the whites were escorted down the river to a large village opposite the mouth of the Arkansas River, where dwelt the head chief of the tribe. He received the strangers before his lodge, beneath a scaffolding of poles. The floors had been covered with rush

mats and skins. Upon these the Frenchmen were placed, while the warriors, according to rank, were seated around them to the number of several hundred. A young Indian, who had an excellent knowledge of the Illinois tongue, acted as interpreter.

"Through him," writes Marquette, "I first spoke to the assembly by the ordinary presence. They admired what I told them of God, and showed a great desire to keep me with them."

The Indians told the strangers that they could reach the mouth of the river in ten days, but that along the banks they would meet warlike tribes, who had been furnished with guns by the Spaniards. They themselves dared not, as formerly, go to that region to hunt the buffalo, but were compelled to live mainly upon Indian corn. The conference lasted the entire day, and was only interrupted by the villagers, who constantly brought in dishes of food, consisting of mush, boiled corn, and dog flesh. These Indians were skillful in the manufacture of platters, earthen pots and other articles. They were also provided with knives, hatchets and beads, which had been obtained from those tribes that traded with the Spaniards or French.

From information gathered thus far, the Frenchmen had definitely ascertained that the Mississippi emptied into the Gulf of Mexico, and believing that the object of their voyage had been attained, they wisely determined to return.

On the seventeenth of July they turned their canoes up stream and began the homeward voyage. It was difficult to force their way against the swift current. Day by day

they toiled under a summer sun, and by night slept amidst the fogs and vapors of the marshes.

Exhausted by the heat and exposure of the voyage, Marquette became ill, and for weeks lay in the bottom of the canoe scarcely able to raise his head. Reaching the mouth of the Illinois River, they determined to continue their journey up that stream, having been informed that its source was within a few miles of Lake Michigan. Father Marquette gives a glowing account of this region.

"We have seen nothing like this river for the fertility of the land, its prairies, woods, wild cattle, bustards, swans, ducks, parrots and even beavers. It has many little lakes and tributary rivers." After paddling a number of days, they came to a large village of Illinois Indians, consisting of seventy-four lodges. This village, called by the dwellers Kaskaskia, was located near the present site of Ottawa.

Friendly relations were established with this people, and a company of young warriors gladly guided them to the shores of Lake Michigan. From this point they proceeded to Green Bay Mission, where they arrived at the close of September, after an absence of four months, having traversed in their birch canoes a distance of two thousand five hundred miles.

Marquette remained at the mission to recover from his illness, but Jolliet pushed on to Canada to make his report to the Governor. When near Montreal his canoe was overturned, his papers lost, and he himself narrowly escaped drowning.

This unfortunate occurrence robbed the daring fur-trader of the laurels justly due him. As the journal of Father Marquette was the only source of information left, to this mis-

sionary was given the honor of the exploration. Jolliet was the official leader of the expedition, while Marquette was in the capacity of a subordinate; popular sentiment nevertheless has reversed the positions of the two men, and the honor due the fur-trader is bestowed upon the missionary.

The tidings of the discovery of the great river were received with joy by the French. Bells were rung, cannon boomed, and the entire population marched to the cathedral and joined in chanting the "Te Deum."

On the 25th of October, 1674, Marquette's health being somewhat restored, he set out with two faithful boatmen Pierre and Jacques, to fulfill his promise to establish a mission at Kaskaskia, the chief town of the Illinois Indians. A band of Pottawattomies and another of Illinois Indians accompanied the missionary. The party, filling ten canoes, paddled along the shores of Green Bay and made the difficult portage to Lake Michigan. The stormy month of November was consumed in coasting along the bleak and desolate shore.

Ascending the Chicago River a short distance, Father Marquette was taken with bleeding of the lungs, and was unable to proceed any farther. The devoted Pierre and Jacques built for him a cabin of logs and roofed it with bark. A hole served for a window; a mat upon the dirt floor was his only bed. His faithful companions cared for him during the winter, and with the return of spring he was able to renew the journey. With a heroism unsurpassed, these men pressed on, fording rivers, carrying their canoes through the forests, and, floating down the swollen streams, finally reached their destination.

The Indians received Marquette, we are told, "as an

DEATH OF MARQUETTE.

angel from heaven," and listened to his eloquent words with reverence and joy. A chapel was erected for the good man, who remained a while among them preaching and visiting from wigwam to wigwam. When failing strength warned him that he must return to his friends in Canada, he summoned his beloved Indians to a grand council, held "on the great meadow which lies between the river and the present village of Utica." "Father Marquette took his place in the center. About him, seated in a circle, were five hundred chiefs and warriors; beyond them were one thousand five hundred young men and braves, and, behind these, women and children to the number of a thousand." They

begged him to remain among them, but he knew he must depart, for his life was fast ebbing away. He promised them, however, that he would return or send another to finish the work he had begun. Such is the story of the establishing of the first mission among the Illinois Indians.

Greatly enfeebled, Marquette set out upon the return journey. A band of devoted Indians accompanied him as far as Lake Michigan. Tenderly did these men of the forest care for the dying missionary. At night they made him a shelter, cooked his food, and spread his couch of leaves and furs. Having reached the lake, they placed him in a canoe with the faithful Pierre and Jacques, bade him an affectionate farewell, and returned to their forest home. Father Marquette continued to grow weaker, and knowing that death was near, requested the boatmen to land on a pleasant slope near the mouth of the St. Joseph River. This they did on the nineteenth day of May, and, erecting a small hut, kindled a fire, and spread a couch for the dying man. He thanked them for their kindness to him, asked forgiveness for any wrong, gave minute directions for his burial, and praised God that he was permitted to die in the wilderness as a missionary of the Holy Faith. During the night he was constantly in prayer until his spirit peacefully took its flight. His weeping companions buried the body as directed, and sadly made their way to the Mission at Mackinac.

The next winter a hunting party of Indians, who had loved the missionary, took up the bones, and in accordance with their custom, carefully washed them, and bore them in a funeral procession to the Mission of St. Ignace at Mackinac, where they were buried beneath the altar of the little chapel.

CHAPTER IV.

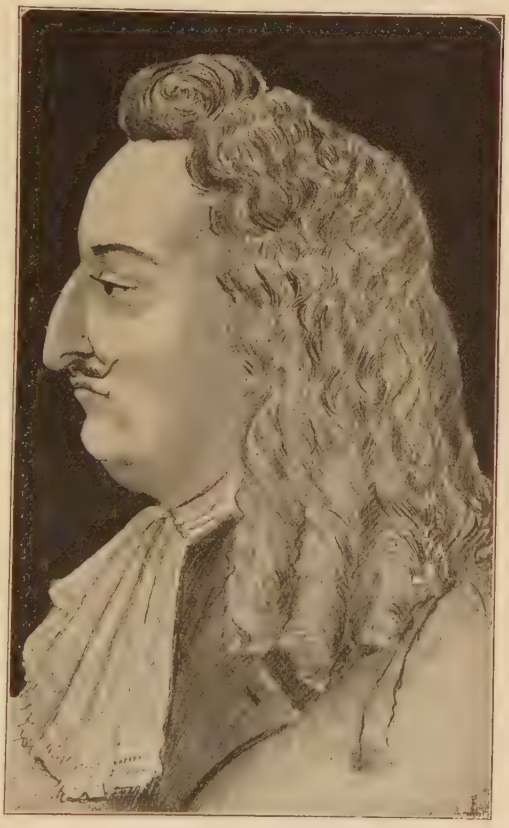
LA SALLE.

Robert Cavelier, knight of La Salle, was born of a rich burgher family in the City of Rouen, France. In 1666, at the age of twenty-three, he landed at Montreal and obtained a grant of land eight miles above the town where the St. Lawrence widens into the Lake of St. Louis. Here he built a village, surrounded it with palisades, and sold out the adjacent land to settlers, who were to pay him in small annual payments. The place was dangerous because of hostile Indians, but was favorably located for trading in furs. While developing his possessions, La Salle applied himself to the study of the Indian language, and within two years was master of the Iroquois tongue and a number of other dialects.

From friendly Indians who stayed with him during the winter, he first heard of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, lying far to the south and west.

Believing that by these rivers lay the route to the Indies he resolved to explore them. With four canoes and fourteen men, La Salle paddled down a tributary to the Ohio, discovered that stream and descended as far as the Falls of the Ohio, now Louisville. He returned to Canada, and in 1673, in company with Frontenac, proceeded to the head of Lake Ontario. Here they held a grand council of the Indian chiefs, made a treaty with them and built a log fort near the present site of Kingston, which they called Fort Frontenac.

Tidings of the discovery of the Mississippi having reached them, La Salle sailed for France to lay before the King a vast scheme for building a chain of forts from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico. Armed with letters from Governor Frontenac his reception at court was most cordial. He was honored with the title of Chevalier, was made governor of Fort Frontenac, and invested with the ownership of the adjacent lands. Wealthy relatives supplied him with much money, and he returned to Canada to engage in fur trading upon a colossal scale. The wooden fort was supplanted



LA SALLE.

by a large one of stone, containing barracks for the soldiers, a mill and bake oven, a blacksmith's shop and a separate house for the officers.

Nine cannon were mounted and served to protect the little village that was springing up in the shadow of the fort.

In 1677, La Salle made a second visit to France, and received new honors and more extended privileges. Upon his return he brought with him an Italian gentleman named Henri de Tonti. This man served as his assistant, and, during the succeeding years, proved a faithful follower and devoted servant. In November, 1679, La Salle, with a company of men including Tonti and Father Hennepin, a priest, proceeded westward along the shore of Lake Ontario. At the mouth of the Niagara River, after obtaining reluctant permission from the Seneca Indians, they built a warehouse, which served as winter quarters for the men. La Salle had conceived the idea of building a vessel above Niagara Falls, to be used in navigating the Upper Lakes. Toiling through the deep snows of midwinter, the men, under the leadership of Tonti, reached a spot six miles above the falls, where a rude shipyard was cleared upon the banks of a small stream. Two Indian hunters, who had come with them, constructed large wigwams in which they were to live. While the Indian hunters supplied them with game, the men felled trees, hewed timbers and soon had the keel and ribs laid.

The Seneca Indians, upon whose hunting grounds the men were working, were greatly displeased when they saw the timbers assume the proportions of a ship, and attempted to burn it. The carpenters, too, became discontented, and

the successful completion of the boat was threatened. Through the persevering efforts of the brave Tonti, the dissatisfied carpenters continued their work, and at the opening of spring the little vessel of forty-five tons' burden was completed and ready for launching. "The friar pronounced his blessings on her; the assembled company sang a Te Deum, cannon were fired, and French and Indians alike, warmed by a generous gift of brandy, shouted and yelped in chorus as she glided into the Niagara. Her builders towed her out and anchored her in the stream, safe at last from incendiary hands; and then, swinging their hammocks under her deck, beyond reach of the tomahawk, slept in peace. The Indians gazed on her with amazement. Five small cannon looked out from her portholes; and on her prow was carved the image of a dreadful monster, the Griffin, whose name she bore, in honor of the armorial bearings of Frontenac."

While the Griffin was building, La Salle had dispatched his French traders in canoes, paddled by Indians and laden with merchandise, to purchase furs from the Indians living on the shores of the Upper Lakes. It was a great event for an Indian village when the white trader arrived with hatchets, knives, beads and cloth. Furs worth many dollars in Paris were gladly bartered for a hatchet which had cost but a few francs. The Indian was satisfied with the exchange, for with the hatchet of steel he could quickly cut down the tree or hew the log. The bow was skillfully shaved with the blade of a knife for which the red man had gladly exchanged his wares. Rival traders and companies attracted by the enormous profit of the business, tried to

injure La Salle by spreading false reports among the various tribes.

When the commander returned from Fort Frontenac, whither he had gone in the depth of winter, the company, thirty-four in number, embarked upon the vessel. The canvas was spread, a salute was fired from the five cannon, and the "Griffin" sped upon her memorable voyage across Lake Erie, while the crowd of silent Indians gazed in astonishment and awe from the shore.

Upon the third day they entered a strait, which La Salle named Detroit. Here was such abundance of game that the men, leaping upon the bank, soon returned laden with deer, bear, turkey, grapes and plums, with which the deck was speedily strewn. Continuing their course, they crossed a small lake, which La Salle named St. Clair, and upon the following day Lake Huron opened magnificently before them. While crossing this lake they encountered a furious tempest that threatened to send them all to the bottom, and caused the stoutest among them to fall upon his knees, but the storm quieted and they finally reached the little Mission Station of St. Ignace at Mackinac and dropped anchor in the quiet bay.

The rival traders and priests of the little mission openly extended a welcome to La Salle, while they secretly harbored jealousy. After a salute had been fired, La Salle, wearing a rich robe of scarlet and gold and attended by his men, was rowed to the shore, and all marched in procession to the little chapel. At this station the commander arrested four of his white traders, who had played him false and squandered his goods. Tonti was sent to St. Mary's to arrest two others for the same offense. Upon

Tonti's return with his prisoners La Salle sailed through the straits and across Lake Michigan to Green Bay, where others of his traders more faithful than those found at Mackinac, delivered to him a large cargo of furs. Here he made a lasting friend of a Pottawattomie Chief, who entertained him with hospitality. La Salle resolved to send back the "Griffin" with the cargo of furs collected here and at other points along the journey. This cargo was of such value that if it arrived in Canada his creditors would all be paid and he would be a rich man. Accordingly the "Griffin," richly freighted, was dispatched with orders to unload at Niagara and return with all speed to the head of Lake Michigan.

La Salle continued the voyage in four large canoes containing a blacksmith's forge, mechanic's tools, arms and ammunition. His party consisted of thirteen men and a skilful Mohegan hunter and guide. In the voyage along the western shore they encountered violent storms and suffered much from hardship and hunger. As they approached the southern shore, game became plentiful and the weather was more pleasant. Paddling up the eastern shore they entered the mouth of the St. Joseph River. Here they were to await Tonti, who, with a company of twenty men, was approaching from Mackinac. Tonti did not arrive, and La Salle's men clamored to be led into the country of the Illinois, where they knew an abundance of corn for the winter was stored. But the commander refused to desert his faithful lieutenant, and set his discontented men to building a fort. At the end of twenty days Tonti arrived, but brought no tidings from the "Griffin." It was now more than two months since the ship had set

sail from Green Bay, and they were fearful that she had gone down with La Salle's entire fortune. He was deeply in debt to the Canadian merchants, and if the vessel were lost he would be a hopeless bankrupt. Amidst this gloom and uncertainty the fort was finished and called Fort Miami, because of the presence of a tribe of Indians bearing that name.

With anxious eye La Salle scanned the dreary horizon. But as day after day passed and no sail appeared, he sent two men to Mackinac to guide the vessel, if it should ever appear, to Fort Miami. The company sadly completed their preparations for ascending the river, "whose weedy edges were already glossed with thin flakes of ice." On the third of December, 1679, no tidings having been received from the "Griffin," the party began the voyage up the St. Joseph River. In four days they arrived at the present site of the city of South Bend. Here they expected to find an Indian trail leading to the headwaters of the Kankakee.

In the absence of the Mohegan hunter, who was searching for game, La Salle tried to find the path and became lost in the tangled woods and blinding snow. The men scoured the region to find him, and fired their guns to direct him to camp. Late the next afternoon he appeared carrying, dangling from his belt, two opossums, which he had killed with a club as they were hanging from a bough of a tree. After losing his way, La Salle had been compelled to skirt a large swamp, and did not again reach the bank of the river until late at night. He fired his gun to signal his companions, and after wandering far, espied in the distance a camp fire. Making his way to it he found

no one, but near it a soft bed of leaves and twigs, from which some one had hastily retreated at his appearance. He vainly called to the invisible person in every Indian tongue known to him. Finding that the owner would not return, he crept into it himself and slept soundly until morning.

With the return of the Mohegan the trail was found, the canoes and freight were lifted upon the shoulders of the men and carried across the marshy, snow-covered plain that separates the sources of the Kankakee River from the St. Joseph. The canoes were placed upon the current of the narrow stream, which wound its sluggish course through a marshy morass whitened with snow and edged with gray elder bushes and withered rushes. Game became so scarce that the discontented men threatened to desert and join the Indians. As the voyagers proceeded the stream widened and the miry waste gave way to undulating prairies, in summer the feeding ground of countless herds of buffalo and deer. Occasionally they could see, upon the distant horizon, Indians in pursuit of game, while at night blazing camp fires twinkled like great eyes. The hunger of the party was unexpectedly appeased when they found a huge buffalo bull mired near the bank of the stream. After he had been killed a rope was passed around his body, and, by the united efforts of twelve men, he was dragged to the shore.

At length the party, with revived spirits, floated into the more majestic Illinois River. Upon either side were wooded hills, from whose summits the voyagers could see the prairies of green stretching away into the distance. The stream threaded its way amidst islands covered with stately

woods. On the right of the travelers was Buffalo Rock, for many years a favorite gathering place for the Indians, and a few miles below, upon the left, they beheld a lofty cliff, crowned with forest trees. This cliff was afterwards famous as Starved Rock. Upon the right bank, the undulating meadows swept back to the distant hills. Upon this plain, near the present village of Utica, was situated the chief town of the Illinois Indians. Silence was everywhere, for the wigwams were deserted and no living thing was to be found. The Indians were on their southern hunting trip at this season of the year. The pits in which they stored their corn were found, and La Salle moved fifty bushels to his canoes, with the intention of repaying the owners when he should meet them on the river below. Proceeding upon their way, they entered the expansion of the Illinois River known as Peoria Lake, a sheet of water twenty miles in length and three in breadth. As they proceeded many columns of smoke ascending from wigwam fires warned them that they were approaching an Indian village. The lake again narrowed to the width of a river, and as they turned a sudden bend, eighty lodges came in view, pitched on either side of the stream. La Salle immediately arranged the eight canoes abreast, himself upon the left, and Tonti upon the right. The men exchanged their paddles for their guns as the swift current bore them into the midst of the astonished Indians. A scene of wild confusion followed. The warriors, howling and whooping, rushed for their weapons, while the women and children sought the protection of their wigwams. In the midst of the hub-bub, La Salle and his little band leaped upon shore, and with guns raised awaited the combat. The Indians,

recovering from their first fright, and desirous of making peace, advanced with the calumet, and the hostile demonstrations upon both sides ended in expressions of friendship. A feast was prepared, and, according to the Indian code of hospitality, the food was placed in the mouths of the Frenchmen by the savages. At the close of the feast, La Salle explained to the Indians his reason for taking the corn from the deserted village, and amply repaid them for it. He then told them that he wished to build a fort in their midst to protect them from the Iroquois. If, however, they did not look upon his plans with favor he would pass on to the Osage Indians and give them the benefit of his protection and trade. Anxious to retain the friendship of the French, and jealous of the other tribes, the Illinois readily consented and promised all that was asked. The remainder of the day was spent in dancing and feasting.

La Salle's enemies continued to follow him. During the night an Indian named Monso, a chief of the Mascoutins, in the employ of rival Frenchmen, arrived at the Indian camp. He gathered the chiefs in a secret council and warned them not to trust La Salle because he was voyaging below to stir up other tribes against the Illinois, and was in truth a spy of the Iroquois. He hoped to check the advance of the party or to induce the men to desert their leader, who was secretly informed of Monso's intrigues by a friendly chief. At a feast held the next day an old chief arose and warned them against the dangers of the Mississippi. He pictured the hostile tribes, the devouring monsters and the raging whirlpools. While the leader was in no way discouraged by the speech, its effect upon his men was perceptible. La Salle thanked the chief

for the warning, but replied that if there were great dangers to be encountered there would be all the greater glory if their journey were successful. But had they not been deceived by lies? Continuing, he said, "We were not asleep, my brother, when Monso came to tell you under cover of night, that we were spies of the Iroquois. Look at what we have brought you. It is not weapons to destroy you, but merchandise and tools for your good. If you still harbor evil thoughts of us, be frank, as we are, and speak boldly." The chief said nothing, but made a sign for the feast to proceed. The next morning La Salle was cut to the heart by discovering that six of his men had deserted. Calling the others together he told them that any man who wished to return in the spring should have free leave to go safely and without dishonor.

As an attempt was made to take his life by placing poison in the pot in which their food was cooking, La Salle resolved to leave the Indian village immediately and build a fortified camp for himself.

A strong position was selected on a low hill two miles below the village on the southern bank of the river. An embankment was thrown up on every side, and a palisade twenty-five feet high was also placed around the entire fort.

Lodgings for the men, built of bullet proof timber, were located at two angles of the enclosure. A priest's chapel occupied a third angle, the magazine and forge a fourth. The tents of La Salle and Tonti were placed within.

Such was the first civilized occupation of the region which now forms the State of Illinois.

La Salle christened his new fortification Fort Crèvecoeur (Heart break). The name tells of disaster and suffering,

but does no justice to the iron-hearted constancy of the sufferer. He planned to build a ship, load it with buffalo hides, descend the Mississippi and cross the Atlantic. The iron and rigging of such a vessel had been placed in the hold of the "Griffin." But all hope of again seeing that vessel had been abandoned. Never faltering, this man of indomitable energy resolved to make the journey on foot to Fort Frontenac, a distance of twelve hundred miles, and bring back the materials necessary for building and equipping such a vessel. Leaving Tonti in command of the fort, La Salle started, with five companions, upon the return to Fort Frontenac. This wonderful journey across bleak plains, through storms of snow and ice, was accomplished in seventy days.

CHAPTER V.

TONTI.

Tonti, with four trusty men and a dozen unscrupulous fellows, was left in command of Fort Crèvecoeur, when La Salle set out for distant Canada. The season of the year was the worst possible for such a journey. The Illinois River was filled with floating ice, which retarded the progress of the party, but they pushed their way up the stream to the deserted town of the Illinois, where they had borrowed corn on their downward trip. While camped here La Salle visited Starved Rock.* Impressed with its natural advantages as a fortress, he sent word for Tonti to examine the place, and if an outbreak of Indians occurred, to fortify it.

The party continued its journey up the river to the present site of Joliet, where the heavy ice rendered further progress by water impossible. Concealing their canoes, they began that remarkable journey overland. As they neared the lakes the country became a dreary waste of melting snow and half-frozen mud, intersected by swollen streams, which were waded or crossed upon rudely constructed rafts. On the 23d of March they reached Fort Miami, where La Salle found the two men who had been sent to search for the missing "Griffin." All hope of finding the vessel had been given up, and he ordered the men to report to Tonti at Fort Crèvecoeur.

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* See Chapter II.

The hardships of the party increased with every step of the journey. Lacerated by thorns, plunging to their waists in half-frozen swamps, chilled to the bone by the icy streams, tracked by bands of savages, they finally overcame all difficulties and arrived at Fort Frontenac on the sixth of May. Had La Salle not possessed an iron constitution and an invincible determination, he never could have performed such a journey. Nature and man seemed to have conspired to wreck his fortunes. The "Griffin" had disappeared, and the valuable cargo of furs, after safely passing the great lakes, had been swallowed up in the rapids of the St. Lawrence. His enemies were attempting to work his overthrow with the government, and ruin him with his creditors. But La Salle did

TONTI.

not despair. Hastening to Montreal he appeared before his astounded enemies, satisfied his clamorous creditors and obtained the necessary supplies for his fort upon the distant Illinois and material for the ship, which was then upon the stocks. Then he returned to Fort Frontenac to prepare a new expedition.

Born to command, La Salle lacked those qualities by which men are won and held. To his companions he was stern, cold and incomprehensible. Scarcely was his iron hand removed from the fort upon the Illinois before the garrison began to talk of revolt. His large schemes had no attraction for them, and they showed their discontent and dislike in a hundred ways. When the men from Fort Miami arrived with the tidings that the "Griffin" was wrecked and La Salle a hopeless bankrupt, unable to pay them their wages, they became openly rebellious.

In accordance with La Salle's instructions, Tonti, with a few men, had gone up the river to examine the Rock of the Illinois. No sooner had he departed than the garrison arose in rebellion, destroyed the fort, seized the ammunition and fled. Two of their number who remained true hastened to Tonti, who was now left in the midst of treacherous savages with but five men, two of whom were the good friars Membré and Ribourde. Returning to the dismantled fort, Tonti collected the tools and stores that had not been destroyed by the mutineers. These he removed to the great town of the Illinois, near Starved Rock, hoping by this display of confidence to banish the distrust that had been planted in the minds of the Indians by La Salle's enemies.

In this Indian town, which consisted of 5,000 to 8,000

people, Tonti and his five companions would have remained unmolested but for the fact that a new engine of destruction was about to be hurled upon them. The terrible Iroquois, who dwelt on the shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie, were preparing to sweep down upon the unsuspecting Illinois. They had already destroyed or scattered the Hurons and Eries, and were now turning their attention to the Indians who lived in the West.

At the moment when Tonti and his men were dwelling among the Illinois, five hundred of the Iroquois warriors were swiftly traversing the forests and prairies that separated them from their enemies. The Miamis had also been induced to join in the attack upon their neighbors and kindred. Swiftly the wild bands advanced upon the doomed village. The alarm was first given by a Shawnee Indian, who discovered the approaching foe. The news spread rapidly from wigwam to wigwam, and all became excitement and confusion. The squaws, with frantic screams, snatched their children and sought protection in the underbrush, or trusted to the speed of their canoes, while the warriors, seizing their weapons, began to prepare for the coming battle. Tonti and his men were soon surrounded by an angry crowd, who accused them of being in league with the Iroquois. In their rage the savages seized the forge and tools brought from the fort and threw them into the river. The women and children were hastily embarked in canoes and sent down the stream, where they were protected by sixty braves. The remaining warriors, four hundred in number, spent the day in preparing for battle. As evening approached they built huge fires that cast a glare for miles, illumining the village, river and forest with the

brightness of day. About these fires, their bodies besmeared with war paint and decked with feathers, the braves of the Illinois danced, howled and brandished their weapons in an attempt to screw up their courage to meet the dreaded foe. At dawn the Illinois scouts returned, and mistaking an Iroquois decked in a French uniform for La Salle, reported that the Frenchman was with the enemy. At this the infuriated warriors rushed upon Tonti and his men with the determination of despatching them for their apparent treachery. The Frenchmen were only saved by a promise that they would join them in fighting the Iroquois. As the Illinois hurried across the river and reached the opposite bank, the Iroquois emerged from the woods that skirted the Vermillion River. Both bands, now face to face, began to leap, to dodge behind every available cover and to fire their guns. Tonti saw at a glance that the foe, who outnumbered the Illinois, were armed with superior weapons, and would doubtless be victorious. Presuming upon the treaty of peace between the French and Iroquois, at the imminent peril of his life, he seized a belt of wampum, which he waved above his head and advanced to meet the approaching savages. His swarthy Italian complexion and half-savage dress was nearly the cause of his death, for the Iroquois, mistaking him for one of the Indian warriors, rushed upon him, and one young brave plunged his scalping knife into his body. Fortunately the blade was deflected from a vital part by striking one of his ribs, but the blood gushed from the wound. A chief, who perceived his true character, now attempted to staunch the wound, and others helped stay the approaching battle. A conference of the Iroquois was held. Some were for putting Tonti to

death at once, and one warrior stood with his scalping knife ready to strike, while others, who dreaded the vengeance of the French, demanded that he should be set at liberty. At length Tonti decided the tide of the angry controversy by declaring that 1,200 Illinois and sixty Frenchmen were being held in reserve. The half-believing Iroquois thereupon sent him back with a peace belt, and a battle was prevented for a time. The Illinois, believing that safety now lay in flight, set fire to their lodges, and under the cover of the smoke and flame, fled in their canoes down the river and rejoined their women and children. The Iroquois, crossing the river, destroyed everything of value, and encamped amid the burning wigwams. Tonti and his men had taken up their abode at the fort. The next day the Iroquois, believing the number of the enemy to be very great, sent Tonti with a hostage to make peace with the Illinois, who were delighted with the prospect, and in return sent a young Indian brave as a hostage to the camp of their foes. This young Indian came near proving the destruction of them all by betraying the weakness of their tribe to the crafty Indians. With loud cries the Iroquois rushed upon Tonti, charging him with having deceived them, and it required all his tact and courage to extricate himself and his companions from this new difficulty.

Perceiving that he could no longer be of service to the Illinois, Tonti with his five companions embarked in a leaky canoe and set out upon the journey to the French mission at Mackinac.

The Iroquois, no longer restrained by the presence of the French, started in pursuit of the fleeing Illinois. Day

after day the savage foes fought each other as pursuer and pursued continued down the stream.

When near the mouth of the Illinois the fleeing tribes separated; some crossed the Mississippi, others continued down the stream. The tribe of the Tamaroas, believing that pursuit was over, tarried near the river, and were suddenly attacked by overwhelming numbers. The warriors fled in terror, leaving their women and children to fall into the hands of their ferocious foes. Burnings and tortures followed. At length the savages, whose greed for slaughter had been satisfied for the time, returned to their homes, taking with them the women and children, who had been spared.

Meanwhile Tonti and his men paddled their dilapidated canoe northward until they were compelled to land to repair it. While the men were engaged in this work, Father Ribourde, charmed by the beauty of the scenery, wandered to a distant grove. Here, while engaged in prayer, he was killed by a band of Kickapoo Indians who were hovering near. "Thus, in the sixty-fifth year of his age, the only heir of a wealthy Burgundian house perished under the war clubs of the savages, for whose salvation he had renounced ease and affluence."

The saddened party continued the journey up the river until, compelled to abandon the canoe, they proceeded toward Lake Michigan on foot. Their provisions became exhausted, and they subsisted as best they could upon acorns, roots and wild onions. One of them became lost while hunting for game, and did not return to camp for several days. Tonti, weakened by his wound, and the many privations of the journey, fell sick. Their destination was

the village of the Pottawattomie Indians, upon the shores of Green Bay, where they felt sure of shelter and food for the winter. The cold increased as they proceeded northward. But for a few ears of corn and some frozen pumpkins found in a deserted Indian village the entire party must have perished. At length, near the end of November, they fell in with a hunting party of Pottawattomie Indians, who greeted them warmly and fed them bountifully. The exhausted Frenchmen were placed in canoes and carried to the village two leagues away, where their famine was "turned to abundance."

The chief of the village was an ardent admirer of La Salle, whom he had befriended the year before, and was accustomed to say that "he knew but three captains in the world, Frontenac, La Salle and himself."

With the opening of spring, Tonti and Father Membré paddled across to Mackinac, and in June were overjoyed by the arrival of La Salle upon his return from Fort Frontenac.

CHAPTER VI.

LA SALLE'S RETURN TO ILLINOIS.

Ignorant of Tonti's whereabouts, La Salle was hastening from Fort Frontenac to the Valley of the Illinois, with a party of twenty-five men and abundant supplies, when, arriving at the St. Joseph River, he left a portion of his stores at the ruined fort and pushed on to the Valley of the Illinois. Everywhere was desolation, silence and death. He found the great town of the Illinois a mass of ruins. The plain about was strewn with wrecks of Indian homes, and even the ruined fort was ornamented with ghastly heads and skulls. The work of destruction had been completed by trampling down the growing corn around the site of the destroyed village.

La Salle carefully searched the ruins for remains of Tonti and his men, but none were to be found. His fort was destroyed, and only the keel and ribs of his vessel remained upon the stocks. Tonti and his men had disappeared, and the peaceful valley had become a scene of desolation. But La Salle was not to be overcome by misfortune. He descended to the mouth of the Illinois, looking anxiously for traces of his friend, and everywhere were the evidences of the deadly work of the savages. On the edge of a prairie, near the mouth of the Illinois, they came upon the charred and mutilated bodies of the unfortunate Tamaroas, but no evidence of the missing men was to be found. The party sadly returned at the beginning of win-

ter to Fort Miami. As La Salle passed through the country devastated by the Iroquois, he resolved to form a league of the western tribes, and to colonize them upon the plain about the rock of St. Louis. Here, protected by a garrison of Frenchmen, the Indians would be secure from the incursions of their terrible foe. He would be able also to monopolize the fur trade of all the Indian tribes dwelling in the Mississippi Valley. La Salle devoted the winter to forming this Indian Confederation. The remnants of the Mohegan and several other eastern tribes, dwelling near Fort Miami, were ready to cast in their lot with the great white chief. If he could reconcile the Miamis and the Illinois, who were gradually returning to their desolated homes, the confederation would be accomplished. At a village of the Miamis which he visited, a number of Iroquois were behaving with great insolence, boasting of their bravery and prowess. La Salle rebuked them so sternly for their many wicked acts, that during the night they quietly slunk away. The astonishment of the Miami tribes was great, and La Salle's influence was increased by the act. The Illinois Indians readily consented to join the confederation. Having united these western tribes La Salle returned to Canada in the spring to obtain needed supplies and make terms with his creditors. On his way thither he was overjoyed to meet Tonti at Mackinac Mission, and to have him for a companion during his return journey. A prosperous voyage repaid him for his many hardships, and in the fall he again started for Fort Miami, which he reached late in the season, with renewed hopes. During the month of December La Salle set out upon another expedition, although the streams were sheeted with ice and the

ground was covered with snow. The object of this, the greatest of all his undertakings, was to open the way for reaching France and Europe by means of the great rivers flowing to the gulf, and thus, avoiding the hardships of overland transportation and the menace of warring Indian tribes, to place on a sure basis the commercial relations of the French colonies with the mother country.

The baggage and canoes were placed upon sledges and drawn by the French and Indians from the present site of Chicago to the sources of the Illinois, and thence down that frozen stream. Arriving at Fort Crèvecoeur, they found the river open, and, embarking in their canoes, the party reached the great river on the sixth of February. The stream was filled with floating ice and they were compelled to camp and await open water. As soon as they were able they launched their canoes and started on their voyage to the sea.

Passing the mouths of the Missouri and Ohio Rivers, they camped at Chickasaw Bluffs, on the 24th of February. Here one of their number, Pierre Prudehomme, was lost while hunting, and as the others had seen fresh tracks of Indians, La Salle feared that he had been killed. Some of his followers built a small stockade fort on a high bluff by the river, while others ranged the woods in search of the missing hunter. At length the man was found and brought to the camp, where he enjoyed a hearty meal, for he was half dead from starvation. To commemorate the restoration of the hunter, La Salle called the stockade Fort Prudehomme.

As the party continued its journey down the river, the climate became more springlike. Trees were budding, and

flowers opened their petals to the warm air and sunshine. The river wound its course through wastes, swamps, and stretches of cane brake. One day, near the middle of March, they became enveloped in a fog so thick that they could see neither shore. While thus floating, the booming of an Indian drum sounded upon their ears. Crossing to the opposite bank, the men landed and threw up rude breastworks of fallen trees and branches. When the fog lifted, the astonished Indians upon the farther shore discovered the strangers at work. Advancing to the water's edge, La Salle made signs of peace and beckoned the Indians to come over. When their canoe approached within gunshot one of the Frenchmen paddled out to meet them, and upon being well received, the entire party proceeded to the Indian village. It proved to be a town belonging to the Arkansas Indians, who dwelt near the mouth of the river now bearing their name. The Frenchmen were provided with every comfort possessed by their friendly entertainers. Separate lodges were given them, and an abundance of feasting followed. La Salle took possession of the entire country in the name of King Louis of France, and with much ceremony erected a cross in the center of the village. At the end of three days the Frenchmen, accompanied by two Indian guides, continued their journey down the mighty river.

Three hundred miles below, their guides showed them a path which led to the town of Taensas. Father Membré and Tonti decided to visit it. Shouldering their canoe, the men carried it through the swamp to a lake which was once the bed of the river. When they reached the town the Frenchmen gazed upon the well-constructed houses

with astonishment. Tonti writes that he had "seen nothing like it in America; dwellings large and square, built of sun-baked mortar, mixed with straw, surmounted by dome-shaped roofs of thatched cane. Two buildings larger than the others attracted the attention of the visitors. The one set apart for the chiefs was forty feet square and contained but a single room. The chief sat upon his throne to receive his visitors. His three wives sat near him and howled an accompaniment to his speech. About him stood sixty grave men, clad in white robes made from the inner bark of the mulberry."

NIKA,
La Salle's Faithful Indian Hunter.

The other building was the temple of the sun, where were kept the bones of departed chiefs, supposed to have been children of the Sun god. A fire was kept constantly

burning upon the altar by three old men appointed to that service. The temple was surrounded by a wall decorated with the skulls of sacrificial victims.

On the sixth of April, 1682, the voyagers were gladdened by the salt breeze blowing fresh from the Gulf, and soon its broad bosom, tossing restlessly, burst upon their sight. The intrepid La Salle had triumphed over every obstacle, and at last the mystery of the great river was revealed. At a distance above the mouth of the Mississippi the party landed. While the Indians looked on in amazement, La Salle planted a column inscribed with the arms of France, and took possession of the territory drained by the mighty river and its tributaries in the name of his sovereign. A leaden plate, bearing a Latin inscription, was buried near the column, and above it was planted the cross. Then with hymns and volleys of musketry ended the ceremony that gave to King Louis XIV. of France the vast basin of the Mississippi.

The boats were now turned up stream and the toilsome return journey began. At times the voyagers were without food, at others they lived upon the flesh of alligators. When the party reached Fort Prudehomme, La Salle was taken with a burning fever, and had to remain there for more than a month; but, desiring to proclaim the wonderful discovery, he sent the faithful Tonti on before him. As soon as La Salle became strong enough he pushed on to Mackinac, where he was joined by Tonti, and together they formed plans to establish the confederacy of the Western Indians. Tonti was sent to Starved Rock*, or the Rock of

*For origin of name see Chap. II.

St. Louis as La Salle named it, to begin the work of clearing the summit for a fort.

The Rock of St. Louis is deserving of more than passing mention. It is a steep bluff upon the south side of the Illinois River, not far from the present city of La Salle, and opposite the village of Utica. It "rises steep on three sides as a castle wall, to the height of a hundred and twenty-five feet above the river. In front it overhangs the waters that wash its base; its western brow looks down on the tops of forest trees, and on the east lies a wide gorge, or ravine, choked with the mingled foliage of oaks, walnuts and elms, while in its rocky depths a little brook creeps down to mingle with the river. From the trunk of the stunted cedar that leans from the summit you may drop a plummet into the river below, where the catfish and turtle may plainly be seen gliding over the wrinkled sands. The cliff is accessible only from behind, where a man may climb up, not without difficulty, by a steep and narrow passage."* This description is not accurate now. The rock may be entirely gone in the year 3000.

In the month of December La Salle and Tonti began the work on the fort. Dwellings and storehouses built with timbers dragged up the rugged path, soon crowned the summit of the rock. The whole was surrounded by a strong palisade. The fortress was named by La Salle Fort St. Louis, in honor of the King of France. The scattered tribes of Indians, who looked upon La Salle as their champion against the dreaded Iroquois, reared their wigwams and lodges in the valley below. From this fortress, in-

* Parkman.

accessible as an eagle's nest, La Salle looked down upon the homes of twenty thousand Indians, from whom he could muster four thousand warriors. His singular plan for forming a colony had been marvelously successful.

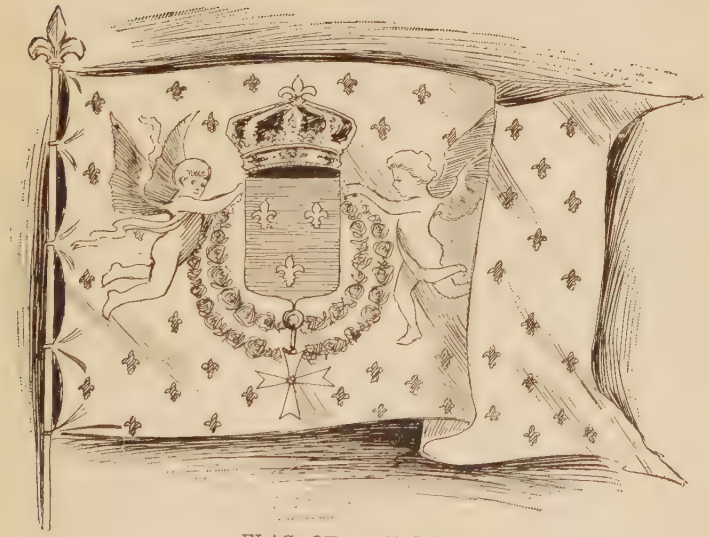
La Salle now left Tonti in command of Fort St. Louis, and hastened to France, by the way of Quebec, to ask King Louis to aid in planting another colony at the mouth of the Mississippi River. If this were done, he could take his furs, purchased from the Indians, down the river and sail through the Gulf of Mexico. The long and dangerous voyage through the Great Lakes and down the St. Lawrence would thus be avoided. At this time France was at war with Spain, who claimed the sole right to sail vessels in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. King Louis was greatly pleased with the idea of establishing such a colony and driving Spain from the Gulf. He gladly gave La Salle four vessels, abundant supplies and a hundred soldiers. With their numbers increased by the addition of six priests, six gentlemen and a number of mechanics and laborers with their families, the expedition set sail on the 24th day of July, 1684. But misfortunes came upon them thick and fast. One vessel was captured by Spanish buccaneers, the others, failing to find the mouth of the Mississippi, sailed along the low marshy coast in vain search for it, and, landing upon the shores of Matagorda Bay, erected a fort. Soon after one of the remaining vessels was wrecked, losing many supplies, and at length the last ship, while exploring the coast, was lost and her crew drowned. Gloom and despair settled over the little band huddled about the solitary fort upon the desolate Texas shore. La Salle was blamed for the overwhelming disasters. Lack of good food and water

caused many to fall sick, while others were killed by Indians. The rising discontent of the unfortunate people was fanned to a flame by evil-minded persons, who hated their leader and desired his death. La Salle led an expedition in search of the great river, and unfortunately these men were permitted to be of the number. A hunting party of which they formed a part was absent so long that La Salle sent his nephew and a companion to search for them. The nephew was a hot-headed, unreasonable fellow, who, when he came up with them, not only rebuked them severely, but took the best portions of their game for himself. The men became very angry, and that night killed the nephew, his companion, and a faithful Indian guide who had accompanied La Salle in his long journey from Fort St. Louis. The next day La Salle, accompanied only by Father Douay, sought to learn the cause of the delay, and was shot from ambush by the cowardly murderers. In this miserable manner, at the early age of forty-three, perished the most remarkable explorer of the new world. Like his own Rock of St. Louis, he had stood unmoved in the storms and disasters that swept around him.

His murderers were soon after killed in a quarrel with their companions. La Salle's brother and a few men who were left, after enduring many hardships, made their way to Fort St. Louis upon the Illinois. Here they were kindly treated by Tonti, who was kept in ignorance of his commander's death.

In the spring these men forged a draft in the dead leader's name, which was generously honored, and with the money

thus secured they returned to France. A few months after their departure Tonti learned from a band of Indians of the unhappy end of the noble La Salle.



FLAG OF FRANCE.

CHAPTER VII.

OLD KASKASKIA AND THE EARLY FRENCH.

The good Father Marquette established the earliest mission among the Illinois Indians, at their chief town, which he named "Kaskaskia." He felt that his life was ebbing away and he must depart, but he promised to send other missionaries to carry on the work he had begun. With sorrowful eyes did the Indians watch his canoe disappear in the distance, for they had learned to love this man, whose pure life and gentle words taught them peace and good will. Other missionaries held services in the little cross-crowned chapel that stood near the village and ministered to the sick and dying.

At about the close of the seventeenth century, probably as early as 1695, fear of the ferocious Iroquois impelled the Illinois tribes to abandon their village and remove to the southward. The mission station under the charge of the Catholic fathers was moved with them.

A beautiful valley about six miles in width is formed by the confluence of the river which is now called Kaskaskia with the Mississippi. Between these two streams but six miles above their junction, where the waters of the Kaskaskia curl beneath the bluffs of the eastern bank, a new site was chosen for the village. Row upon row of Indian lodges soon covered the plain. A log chapel and a house for the Jesuit Fathers was built above the village and enclosed with a neat stockade. With the help of the Indians

the land adjoining the mission was cultivated. Cattle, hogs and other domestic animals were introduced.

About this time, probably in 1700, a mission station had been established by Father Pinet among the Tamaroa Indians at Cahokia, four miles south of the present site of East St. Louis. The following year a number of Frenchmen settled there. Houses were erected, and each settler was given a piece of ground 300 feet square. Cahokia became a village of considerable importance, and in 1795 was made the county seat of St. Clair County. This honor was wrested from it in 1814 by the thriving town of Belleville. Damaged by the floods of 1844, Cahokia fell into decay, and at the present time is only a hamlet.

The early French immigrants were attracted from Canada by the reports of mild climate and fertile soil. After New Orleans and other French colonies were planted in Louisiana, numbers of settlers came to the Illinois country by the less laborious route of the Mississippi River. Before many years had passed a regular trade was established between the settlements of Upper and Lower Louisiana. Cargoes of flour, tallow, bacon, hides and leather were floated down to New Orleans, where they were shipped to the West Indies and France. The boatmen brought back sugar, rice, indigo and articles manufactured in Europe. By the middle of the eighteenth century several thousand Frenchmen and their descendants were living upon the banks of the Mississippi and its tributaries.

Kaskaskia was now the metropolis of Northern Louisiana. The log chapel had been replaced by a larger building of stone. In the midst of many acres of cultivated

land was situated a house for the Fathers and a Jesuit College. Beyond lay the village, its rows of white houses fronting the street upon which were located the store-houses of the fur-traders and merchants. Across the river to the east arose the high bluffs of "Garrison Hill," crowned by a fort built to repel a threatened attack of the Chickasaw Indians.

The houses were quaint in appearance and peculiar in construction. The walls were formed by planting, deep in the ground, a framework of posts held together by cross strips. The whole was strongly braced at the corners, and resembled many ladders placed one above the other. This framework was then filled in neatly with straw and mortar. The carefully trimmed walls were given many coats of whitewash within and without. The roof of thatch was quite steep, and often projected over the broad porch which extended round the entire building. The floors were made of slabs hewn from logs. These dwellings, of uniform size and appearance, gave to the village an air of peace and contentment, in keeping with the simple lives of the people.

Longfellow has given us a description of such a town in Evangeline:—

"Strongly built were the houses, with frames of oak and of hemlock,
Such as the peasants of Normandy built in the reign of the Henrys.
Thatched were the roofs, with dormer windows, while gables projecting
Over the basement below, protected and shaded the doorway:"

The dress of these people was simple and quaint. Coarse blue shirts were covered with vests and pantaloons of

homespun. A long blue coat with pointed hood was a common outdoor garment. Upon hunting expeditions and in winter, coonskin caps and pantaloons of deerskin were worn. The dress of the women was of blue cotton or Spanish cloth, made with a short waist and full skirt. A blue handkerchief was a common head covering for both sexes. Both men and women wore deerskin moccasins, decorated with shells and beads.

With primitive wooden plows drawn by oxen yoked by the horns instead of the necks, these people cultivated thousands of acres of land, and raised bountiful crops of tobacco, hops, oats and wheat. Corn was raised to feed the hogs or to make hominy, for the early French did not use corn bread. The horses, driven tandem, were attached by a neat harness of rawhide to rude carts having wheels of solid wood. Spinning wheels and looms were unknown

KASKASKIA FROM FORT GAGE.

to these people; butter was made by beating the cream with a spoon or shaking it in a bottle.

The cultivated lands were held by the village in common, and portions dealt out to the heads of the families in proportion to their numbers. If the land was neglected or went uncultivated, it was taken again by the village. A pasture and woodland, many acres in extent, was also used in common for the herds and flocks of the simple people. As the numbers of families increased by marriage or the arrival of immigrants, portions of land would be taken from the common pasture and added to the cultivated fields. The affairs of the village, even the planting and gathering of the crops, were regulated by a council of the elder men.

Their homely tasks were interspersed with amusements, festivals and holidays, for these French were a merry people. Middle-aged and young alike enjoyed dancing, while the old men and priests looked on with beaming eyes. Even the Indians and the slaves joined in this simple revelry. On the last night of the old year it was the custom for the young to dress in unusual garb and, entering the houses of the village, engage the inmates in merry making. The entire community then gathered at a common meeting place, where with dancing and feasting the new year was ushered in. Another festal season was the sixth of January. Four kings had been selected at the gathering the year before by distributing to the men a cake in which four beans had been hidden. The lucky finders of the beans each selected a queen to assist in arranging a king ball. At the close of the first dance the queens selected new kings, whom they formally saluted with a kiss. These kings

in their turn selected other queens, and thus the mirth and merriment continued for the week preceding Lent.

As agriculture was the only occupation of the village, many of the young men entered the employ of the fur companies, or on their own account went on long trading expeditions among the Indians who dwelt upon the Mississippi or Missouri Rivers. Upon their return in the fall, laden with furs, the entire community united to do them honor.

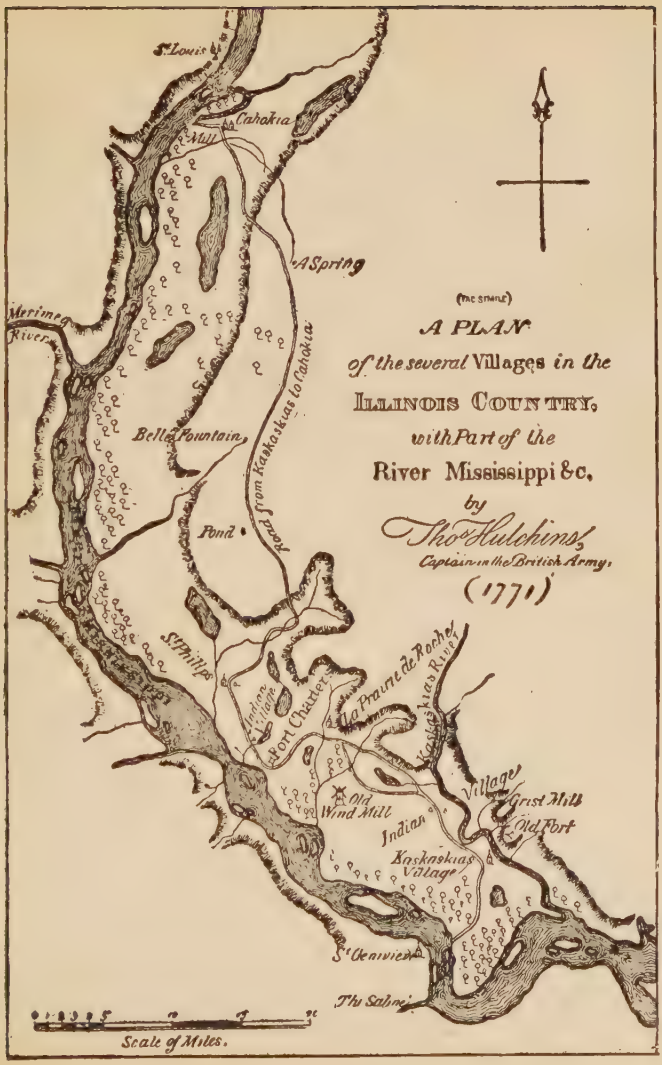
Flatboats, in which furs and farm products were floated down to New Orleans, gave employment to others. The voyage required months for its completion, and was attended by many dangers. As the boats floated with the current they were propelled by mammoth oars called sweeps. On the return voyage the boatmen were assisted by large sails. When the wind failed the men were compelled to walk along the shore and pull the boat by means of a long rope; or the boat was "cordelled" by means of a rope carried ahead and tied to an overhanging tree or projecting rock, while the crew pulled hand over hand.

The relations of these French settlers with the Indians by whom they were surrounded were always friendly. Their tact and fairness caused them to escape the wars which frequently engaged the colonists upon the Atlantic coast. Together they explored rivers and traversed the forest in search of game; together they received the sacrament from the priests and stood with bowed heads around the altar.

Thus for nearly a century did the white man and the native owner of the soil dwell in a peace that was rudely broken by the advent of the blunt and inconsiderate English.

The relations between the French and the Indians is well illustrated by an incident which occurred soon after Kaskaskia came into possession of the Americans. For a murder that had been committed in a broil, three young Indians were given up by the Illinois Chiefs to the newly instituted authority. The sympathy of the Kaskaskia people, especially the women, was entirely with the Indians, and they desired that they should be received into the true church and publicly baptized before their execution. Accordingly each of the young men was adopted by a woman, who gave him a Christian name and was to stand as his god-mother during the ceremony. The entire female population of the town was busily engaged for a number of days in preparing for the occasion. Needles were plied incessantly, and finally the preparations were completed. The evening before the execution the Indians escaped, as some believed through the assistance of their fair sympathizers. When the danger blew over the young men returned and were permitted to remain unmolested.

Kaskaskia rapidly increased in numbers, and in 1725 became an incorporated town, with special privileges from King Louis XV.


St Louis
Cahokia
Mill
A Spring
Merrimack River
Bellefountain
Road from Kaskaskias to Cahokia
Pond
St Philips
Indian Village
Fort Chartres
La Prairie de Rocher
Kaskaskias River
Village
Grist Mill
Old Fort
Old Wind Mill
Indian
Kaskaskias Village
St Genevieve
The Salmine
Scale of Miles.
(FAC SIMILE)
A PLAN
of the several Villages in the
ILLINOIS COUNTRY,
with Part of the
River Mississippi &c.
by
Thos Hutchins
Captain in the British Army.
(1771)

CHAPTER VIII.

FORT CHARTRES AND THE BRITISH.

Twenty miles above the ancient village of Kaskaskia, a long, irregular mound of earth marks all that remains of the once formidable Fort Chartres; yet this fortress was erected on a scale of magnificence unequaled by any other fortification of France in the new world.

In 1718, young Pierre Duque Boisbriant, the newly-appointed Commandant of French military affairs in Illinois, arrived at Kaskaskia with instructions to erect a fort in the Mississippi Valley.

Midway between Kaskaskia and Cahokia a site was chosen on the valley lands a mile from the great river, and here the soldiers of France cleared away the virgin forest, hewed out the timbers for the walls, and with much toil brought the stone for the foundation from the bluffs four miles away. After more than two years of labor and at a cost of one million crowns, the fort was completed and named in honor of the Duc de Chartres, son of the regent of France. It immediately became the seat of French military power. Large warehouses and factories of the trading companies were erected, and under the protecting shadow of the fortress the village of New Chartres sprang into life. The fort, as will be found hereafter, was remodeled and enlarged in 1750.

To the fort came Philip Renault, Secretary of the French Trading Company, bringing with him mechanics, slaves,

settlers, and miners, for the French expected to find precious ore in the bluffs that lined the Mississippi River.

The valley lands between Kaskaskia and Cahokia were cleared and planted to corn, wheat, tobacco and cotton. The French villages of St. Philip and Prairie du Rocher were founded and grew into thriving settlements.

The people of the fort and village led a merry life. Lordly processions of gentlemen and richly dressed ladies marched into the chapel to hear mass. Gay hunting parties issued from the gates of the fort and returned at night full laden with spoils of the chase.

Stately receptions were given, where officers in uniforms covered with gold lace danced with ladies robed in velvets and satins. The fashions of Paris were reproduced in this military station on the distant Mississippi.

The fame of Fort Chartres spread to every settlement in the new world. It became a common saying of the early days, "All roads lead to Fort Chartres."

From the great warehouses of the Commercial Company, parties of traders went out to barter with the Indians and returned laden with furs and hides which were shipped in batteaux to New Orleans.

When France and Spain were at war in Europe, an attack upon the fort was planned by the Spaniards of distant Santa Fe. The soldiers of Spain marched across the plains of Colorado and Kansas intending to secure as allies the Osages and next to fall upon the Missouri Indians,—who were friendly to the French. By mistake the guides led them to a village of the Missouri Indians, whose chiefs listened gravely while the Spaniards revealed their plans of attack. That night the Spaniards, sleeping among the

FORT CHARTRES. From Painting in State House.

supposed Osages, were murdered to a man, with the exception of one fat priest who was permitted to escape because of the crucifix he carried.

In 1736 the dashing Pierre D'Artaguiette led the soldiers of Fort Chartres against the distant Chickasaws. His fleet of canoes and batteaux, filled with officers, soldiers and Indians, made an imposing appearance as it floated out upon the current of the river. Fierce was the battle and terrible the defeat of the French. The captured officers, including the commander and Vincennes, who had come from the fort on the Wabash, were burned at the stake by the infuriated victors.

When the sad tidings reached Fort Chartres the bells were tolled and the people walked in sorrowful procession to the chapel of Sainte Anne.

In 1750 a new commandant, the Chevalier Makarty was sent to Fort Chartres with orders to reconstruct the fort of stone. Accordingly the wooden walls were torn down and at an incredible expenditure of labor and treasure the new fort was erected.

When completed it was the strongest and most pretentious fortress in the new world. We can hardly realize the difficulties that attended the building of so great a structure in the heart of a western forest. The iron that entered into its structure and the skilled workmen had to be brought from France. Wagon roads had to be built over which rude ox-carts hauled stones prepared at distant quarries. The walls of the fort were eighteen feet high and enclosed four acres of land. The four bastions of masonry each contained eight embrasures, forty-eight loop holes, and a sentry box. Above the arched gateway, fifteen feet

in height, was a platform of cut stone reached by a stairway of nineteen stone steps.

Within the walls stood the great stone storehouse, ninety feet long by thirty feet wide, and a guardhouse with chapel and rooms for the priests on the second floor. The government house was eighty-four feet by thirty-two feet, with a great stone porch running across the front, and the coach house and pigeon loft near by. The two rows of barracks measured each one hundred and thirty-five feet long by thirty-six in breadth. In one angle of the fort was situated a bake house containing two ovens, with a well near by. Apart from the other buildings was located the magazine, a building of stone thirty feet square and thirteen feet high, the roof and doorway being also of stone. This magazine is the only building that still remains. The stone from this fort has furnished material for the walls and chimneys of many farm houses in the vicinity.

Under the brave commandant Makarty the soldiers of Fort Chartres issued forth to take part in the wars with the English, and fought upon many battlefields in the French and Indian war.

To the soldiers of Fort Chartres Washington surrendered at Fort Necessity, and they were present at the overthrow of General Braddock.

When Canada was won for the English by General Wolfe, in the famous battle beneath the walls of old Quebec, it was thought that the territory controlled by Fort Chartres might be retained for the French. But, by the treaty of 1763 all the French territory of the New World east of the Mississippi was ceded to England. By

a secret treaty at about the same time, the territory west of the Mississippi was given to Spain.

The aged St. Ange kept possession of the fort until the arrival of the English, and in October, 1765, formally delivered it to the new commander, Captain Thomas Stirling.

French soldiers and even Indian warriors wept when the lilies of France were hauled down from above the walls and the hated cross of St. George was flaunted to the breeze. St. Ange and his little garrison, believing that they would be upon French soil, withdrew to St. Louis. Here he continued to rule for a number of years until displaced by a Spanish governor.

A large number of French inhabitants, unwilling to dwell in a country ruled by men of a different race and creed, whom they had been taught to hate for generations, sold their possessions and left the country. The greater number withdrew to the settlements of St. Genevieve and St. Louis. Others embarked upon the Mississippi and removed to Natchez, Baton Rouge or New Orleans.

The English immediately established civil courts and introduced the jury system of trial. The French did not take kindly to the English courts. They had been content to submit all disputes and difficulties to the priests.

In the spring of 1772, the great river, as if to avenge the defeat of the French, overflowed its banks and swept in a mighty flood across the bottom lands. The western wall of the fort crumbled into the raging waters and the place had to be abandoned. The British removed their military stores to the fort opposite Kaskaskia, which was named in honor of the British commander in America, Fort Gage.

Kaskaskia continued to be the center of British power and influence until the entire territory was given over to the Americans.

The policy of the English Government was to prevent colonists from settling in the newly acquired territory. They desired to turn the vast region into a hunting ground where only British agents could purchase the quantities of furs that were annually sold by the Indians. In a proclamation dated October 7th, 1763, King George forbade "making any purchases or settlements whatever, or taking possession of any lands beyond the sources of any rivers which fall into the Atlantic Ocean from the north or northwest."

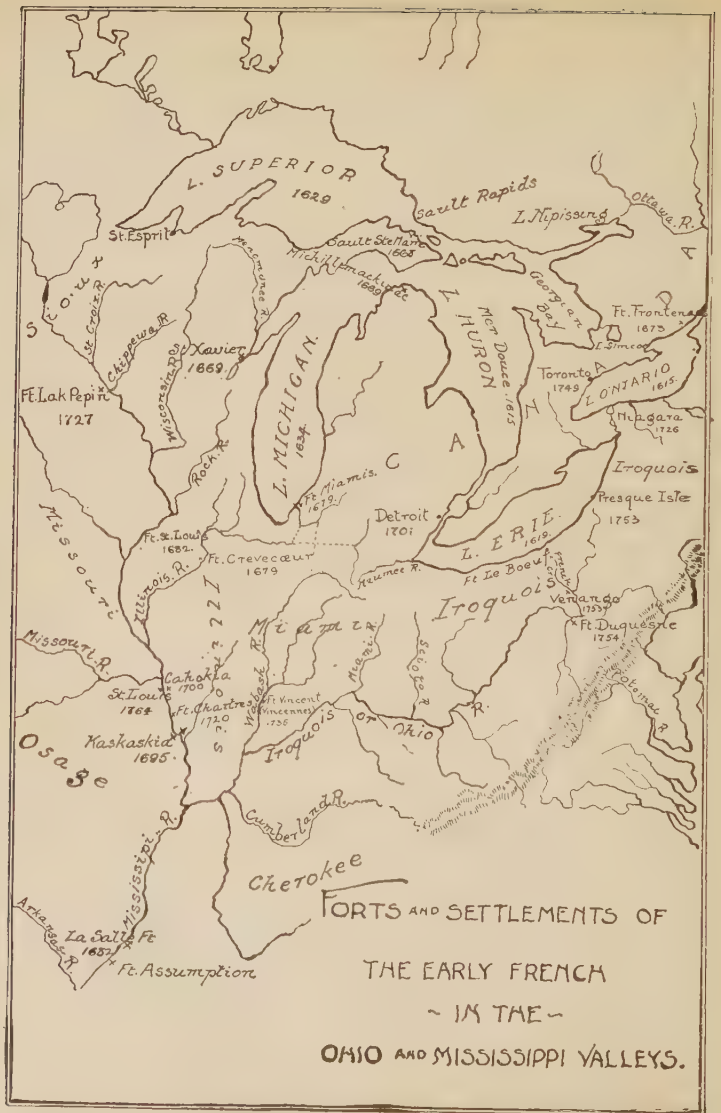
This policy would have made a perpetual wilderness of a vast region unsurpassed for fertility.

In violation of the king's proclamation the British governors permitted companies to purchase lands from the Indians. The Illinois Land Company, composed of English traders and merchants, obtained two vast tracts of land from an Indian council, representing the Kaskaskias, Peorias and Cahokias, held at Kaskaskia on July 5th, 1773. The deed, signed by ten chiefs, each making his mark, gave the white men an immense tract of land embracing many counties of Illinois. The consideration for this princely domain was, "two hundred fifty blankets, two hundred sixty stroudes, three hundred fifty shirts, one hundred fifty pairs of stroud and half thick stockings, one hundred fifty breech cloths, five hundred pounds of gunpowder, one thousand pounds of lead, one gross knives, thirty pounds vermillion, two thousand gun flints, two hundred pounds brass kettles, two thousand pounds to-

bacco, three dozen gilt looking-glasses, one gross gunworms, two gross awls, one gross fire steels, sixteen dozen of gartering, ten thousand pounds of flour, five hundred bushels of Indian corn, twelve horses, twelve horned cattle, twenty bushels salt, twenty guns, and five shillings in money."

This deed was recorded in the office of a notary public at Kaskaskia, September 2, 1773. This is one of many such deeds made at this time, and but for the establishing of an independent government by the colonists, the titles might have been sustained by the British Government.

Colonel Wilkins, the British commander at Kaskaskia, made many grants of Indian lands to his friends. One of these grants, consisting of thirty thousand acres, came into the possession of John Edgar, a British officer who came to Kaskaskia and established a store. This British grant was afterwards confirmed by Congress, and made Mr. Edgar the richest land owner in Illinois.



FORTS AND SETTLEMENTS OF

THE EARLY FRENCH

~ IN THE ~

OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI VALLEYS.

TERRITORIAL PERIOD

A TYPICAL LOG HOUSE OF THE ILLINOIS COUNTRY.

CHAPTER IX.

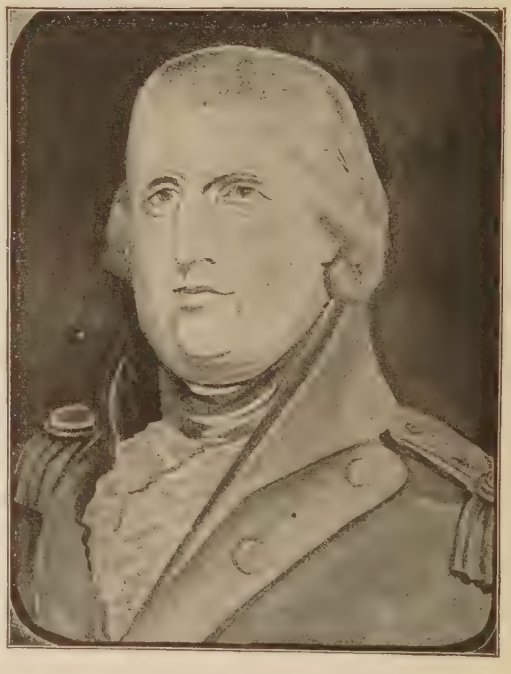
COLONEL GEORGE ROGERS CLARK AND THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION.

The annals of the Revolution contain no achievement more brilliant or daring than the winning of Illinois for the Americans by George Rogers Clark. The colonists on the Atlantic coast were struggling heroically with the British foe within their own borders, and gave little heed to the western country beyond the Alleghany mountains. With the exception of a few French settlements in the Valley of the Wabash, on the Mississippi, and a fringe of settlements in Kentucky planted by adventurous Virginians and North Carolinians, the entire territory was a wilderness.

The strong military posts at Detroit, Vincennes and Kaskaskia were occupied by the British, who had won over the Indian tribes with offers of gold for the scalps of men, women and children.

George Rogers Clark had gained renown in Kentucky by successfully leading companies of men against the Indians in those conflicts that gained for the region the name of the "Dark and Bloody Ground." Perceiving that the attacks of the savages had been instigated by the British agents, who furnished them with arms and ammunition, Clark resolved to capture and win the entire territory for the cause of the colonists. Full of his project, he hastened back to Virginia and laid the plans before the Governor,

Patrick Henry. The idea of subduing the British strongholds in the west was pleasing to the Governor, who gave to Clark "$6,000 in paper currency and an order on the commander at Fort Pitt for boats and necessary stores." He was also authorized to enlist seven companies of fifty men each, with a promise to every man of three hundred acres of land should the expedition prove successful. Enlisting a few men at Pittsburg, Clark floated down the Ohio to Kentucky, where others to the number of one hundred and fifty joined him. Proceeding to the Falls of the Ohio, he built a fort on Corn Island opposite the present site of Louisville and stored his supplies. Clark now for the first time revealed his plans to the men, and announced the real destination of the expedition.



COL. GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.

Some of his followers, dismayed by the daring of the enterprise, deserted during the night and waded to the Kentucky shore. The remainder of the soldiers, accustomed to hardships and danger, were enthusiastic in their approval of the project.

On the 24th of June, 1778, he embarked his little army of one hundred and fifty men, plunged through the rapids, and continued down the Ohio to the mouth of the Tennessee, where his forces landed upon an island. Here they met a party of hunters returning from Kaskaskia, who informed them that the soldiers of the fort were numerous, and that sentinels were stationed on the bluffs of the Mississippi. They stated further that the discipline was not strict, because no one supposed an attack was contemplated. Clark determined to march across the country, a distance of one hundred and seventy miles, and take the fort from an unexpected quarter. The hunters eagerly joined the party in the capacity of guides. As the utmost secrecy was necessary to the success of the undertaking, scouts were sent ahead to kill game and capture any wandering bands of French or Indians.

Threading tangled forests and marshy swamps, the soldiers at length emerged upon the open prairies. Once the guide, John Saunders, lost the way and the men, becoming suspicious, determined to kill him. But at length the trail was found, and he led them with little loss of time to within three miles of Kaskaskia, where they arrived upon the afternoon of July 4.

Thus far their advance had been unobserved and, to make the surprise more complete, Clark led his little army through the thickets above the town and kept them con-

cealed until nightfall. Crossing the Kaskaskia River, they captured the inmates of the ferry-house, from whom they learned that none of the villagers supposed a foe to be near and that the soldiers of the fort were entirely off their guard. Taking these people with him as guides, Colonel Clark separated his little army into two divisions. One band surrounded the town; the other, led by the commander, proceeded to capture the fort occupied by the unsuspecting British.

When Fort Gage was burned in 1766, it is probable that the British removed their stores and supplies across the river to Kaskaskia and took possession of the old Mansion House built by the Jesuits. This building, which was in the southern portion of the town, was fortified and doubtless proved sufficiently strong for their needs.

The soldiers in the mansion far outnumbered the attacking party, but Colonel Clark trusted for success to the suddenness and boldness of the attack. The officers of the fort, it is said, were giving a ball to which the young men and maidens of the village had been invited. As the little army approached the postern gate, lights streamed through the windows, and the sound of music and merriment could be heard from within. Posting his men near the entrance, Clark boldly marched in and stood with folded arms, an interested spectator. As the lights from the flickering torches shone upon his face, an Indian, who had been reclining upon the ground, recognized him and sprang to his feet with a fierce war whoop. The dancers stopped aghast, while the soldiers ran toward their quarters. But Clark, with grim humor, invited them to continue their merriment, announcing, however, that they were now danc-

ing under the flag of Virginia instead of that of England.

At a signal, his men rushed in and captured all the officers and men. The band, concealed near the village, hearing the shouts of victory, rushed into the town with hideous cries, and drove the terrified people into their homes. The panic-stricken inhabitants delivered up their arms, and the capture of the British stronghold in Illinois was accomplished without the shedding of a drop of blood. The affrighted people passed a sleepless night. Dreadful stories had been told by the British agents of the harshness and cruelty of the Kentuckians, or "Long Knives." If their lives were spared, the French expected nothing less than that they would be driven from their homes and their property confiscated, as had happened to the Acadians a few years before. Clark, on the other hand, had no thought of doing them harm, but was anxious to win their friendship. The next morning he called together the chief men of the village and assured them that he had penetrated the wilderness to protect the people rather than do them injury.

Continuing, he said, "We do not war against Frenchmen. The king of France, your former ruler, is the ally of the colonies; his fleet and his arms are fighting our battles, and the war must shortly terminate. Go and inform the inhabitants that they can dismiss their fears." When the French heard the message, their terror was turned to wildest joy. The young men and maidens with songs and shouts danced through the streets bearing garlands of flowers and the older men sought in every way to honor their deliverers.

Captain Bowman, with a company of men and a num-

ber of French militia, was now sent against Cahokia, a French settlement, fifty miles north of Kaskaskia, on the Mississippi River. These people accepted the change without resistance and took the oath of allegiance to the colonies.

The forts had been captured and the French won over to the cause of liberty, yet there remained the more difficult task of winning or subduing the Indian tribes. These tribes were allies of the British. Colonel Clark felt that his work would not be completed until their strongholds were captured. His army was very small, and could with difficulty sustain itself surrounded by so many enemies. Many of his men had enlisted for only three months and that time had expired. He persuaded a hundred of them to re-enlist and, with the addition of seventy French volunteers, resolved to march upon Vincennes at once. When the French heard of his determination, they begged him to give up the attempt as many of the residents at Vincennes were their friends and relatives. Father Gibault, the village priest, grateful to the soldiers for not molesting his church or people, volunteered to go to Vincennes and persuade the people there to transfer their allegiance to the Americans. As Father Gibault was a man of influence, his request was readily granted.

With but two companions the priest set out upon his mission. He easily persuaded his people to throw off the yoke of the British, and marching to the fort, which contained but few soldiers, the citizens pulled down the British flag and hoisted that of America.

When the good news reached Kaskaskia, Colonel Clark sent Captain Helm and a company of French volunteers to

take formal possession of the fort. This officer's bravery and knowledge of Indian character admirably fitted him for the trying position of commander. Below Vincennes, upon the banks of the Wabash, lived a powerful chief, who was styled the "Grand Door of the Wabash." Captain Helm skilfully won this chief to the American cause, and the submission of the other Indians living in the valley speedily followed.

Colonel Clark now took upon himself the greater task of dealing with the horde of savages, representing nearly every western tribe, who had come to Illinois to learn just what had happened, and to hear for themselves all that the "Long Knives" had to say. A meeting was called at Cahokia, and the streets of the little village swarmed with savages. Colonel Clark had studied the Indian character so carefully that he knew how best to treat them. Instead of appearing anxious to gain their friendship, he addressed them in a long speech and carefully explained the reasons for war between the colonists and Great Britain. In conclusion, he said, "As I am convinced that you never heard the truth before, I do not wish you to answer me until you have taken time for consideration. We shall therefore part this evening, and when the Great Spirit shall bring us together again, let us speak and think as men with but one heart and one tongue."

The next day the chiefs, having concluded to turn from the British and accept the Americans, gathered to the council. One chief, their spokesman, thus addressed Colonel Clark: "We will take the belt of peace and cast down the bloody belt of war; our warriors shall be called home; the tomahawk shall be thrown into the river, where

it can never be found, and we will carefully smooth the road for your brothers whenever they wish to come and see you." The peace pipe was again lighted, and after it was passed around the council ended.

Colonel Clark's character and tact are well illustrated by an incident that occurred at this meeting. The Meadow Indians had been offered a large reward to kill the American commander and, attending the council for that purpose, camped near the American headquarters. But Colonel Clark, ever watchful and alert, was not to be taken off his guard. At midnight the savages attempted to break into the house in which he was supposed to be sleeping. Instantly they were seized by the French militia and bound hand and foot. The people of the town, alarmed at the uproar, seized their arms and rushed to the assistance of the commander and his men. The crest-fallen warriors begged to be released, but Clark turned from them indifferently. He even refused to see the friendly chiefs who came to intercede for their guilty kinsmen. Next morning, calling all the tribes to a grand council, he released the captive chiefs that he might speak to them in the presence of their friends and allies.

"After the ceremony of Indian etiquette had been finished, Clark stood up in the ring of squatted warriors, while his riflemen, in travel-worn hunting shirts, clustered behind him. Taking the bloody war belt of wampum, he handed it to the chiefs whom he had taken captive, telling the assembled tribes he cared neither for their treachery nor enmity. He had a right to put them to death, instead he would escort them outside the camp, and after three days begin war upon them." The humbled warriors begged

earnestly for peace, but the commander turned a deaf ear to their entreaties. At this point, two young warriors came forward and offering themselves as a sacrifice, silently awaited the expected tomahawk. Advancing, Colonel Clark ordered them to uncover their heads, and thus addressed them: "I am rejoiced to find men among all nations. These two young warriors who have offered themselves as a sacrifice are at least proof for their own countrymen. Such men are worthy to be chiefs, and with such I like to treat." Taking them by the hand he introduced them to the assembly as men worthy to be chiefs of their tribe and, because of their courage, freely forgave the crime of all. These two men were ever after held in high esteem by their fellows.

An alliance was formed with these Meadow Indians that was never broken, and the renown of Clark spread to every tribe. As he never did a dishonorable act, his influence over them became very great.

Peace was made with the Indians, but a still greater difficulty confronted him. The commander at Detroit, General Hamilton, having learned the strength of Clark's forces, prepared to lead an expedition against the forts and retake the country. "Throughout September, every soul in Detroit was busy from morning till night mending boats, baking biscuits, packing provisions in kegs and bags; collecting artillery stores, and in every way preparing for the expedition. Fifteen large boats were procured, each able to carry from 1,800 to 3,000 pounds. These were to be loaded with ammunition, food, clothing, tents, and especially with presents for the Indians. Cattle and vehicles were sent ahead to the most important portages on the route.

When all things were in readiness Hamilton had a grand council of chiefs, and made them a great feast, at which oxen were roasted whole."

The next day, October 7, 1778, the army, numbering five hundred men, French, English and Indians, started across Lake Erie to the mouth of the Maumee River. Pulling their boats up the river to the portages, they placed them upon cart wheels and rolled them through the woods to the sources of the Wabash. Embarking his forces upon this river, Hamilton slowly proceeded, stopping at every Indian village to hold a conference and give presents to the chiefs. Upon the morning of December 15, 1778, the British army appeared before Vincennes. The French immediately deserted Captain Helm, who was left with but one American, named Henry. The two men placed a loaded cannon in the open doorway, and when the British advanced, Captain Helm, standing with lighted match in hand, commanded them to halt. Hamilton, ignorant of the strength of the garrison, halted his men and demanded the surrender of the fort.

"No man shall enter here," exclaimed Captain Helm, "until I know the terms."

The British officer replied, "You shall have the honors of war."

Accordingly the entire garrison, consisting of one officer and one soldier, marched out and laid down its arms. The news of the fall of Vincennes did not reach Kaskaskia until six weeks after the capture of the fort. Through a French trader who lived at St. Louis, Clark learned that Hamilton had reduced his force to eighty men; that he was well supplied with ammunition and provisions, and that he in-

tended with the opening of spring to obtain re-enforcements from Detroit and recapture all the posts in the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys.

Colonel Clark immediately decided to advance, with his little army, and attack Vincennes before the opening of spring. Captain John Rogers and forty men were at once sent out in a boat containing provisions, ammunition and several small cannon, with instructions to proceed by water to the mouth of the White River and there await the land expedition.

On the 7th of February, Colonel Clark, with one hundred and seventy men, began the march to Vincennes, a distance of two hundred and forty miles. Fortunately the weather was not cold, but as the plains were under water the march was difficult and fatiguing. The commander devoted himself ceaselessly to keeping up the spirits of his men. He and his officers shared every hardship and were foremost in every labor. The men were divided into companies. Each company in turn was permitted to hunt by day and invite the entire army to a feast at night. Tents there were none, but blazing campfires were built, and around these they spent their evenings in singing, dancing and feasting upon buffalo hump, elk saddle, venison and wild turkeys. The pleasures of the night caused them to forget the toils of the coming day, and thus, without murmur or complaint, they reached the "drowned lands" of the little Wabash. "The channels of these two branches were a league apart, but the flood was now so high that they formed one great river, five miles wide," the overflow of water being three feet deep in the shallowest part of the plains between and near the main channels.

Without delay the commander hewed a boat from the trunk of a large tree. Then, crossing over the first channel, a scaffold was placed on the edge of the flooded plain. The men and baggage were ferried over and placed upon the scaffold; the pack horses were brought across and reloaded as they stood in the water. The second channel was crossed in the same manner. Thus they traveled mile after mile in the icy swamps, oftentimes waist deep, until they stood upon the main channel of the Wabash, ten miles from Vincennes. Their provisions were exhausted, and the boat commanded by Captain Rogers had not arrived.

Parties were sent in different directions to search for food and boats, but succeeded in finding nothing but a small canoe. A party of Frenchmen in a boat were hailed and came to land. They informed Clark that the British did not know of the presence of the army and that the inhabitants of the village were friendly to him. This was cheering news to the little army, and as one man killed a deer that day all had something to eat. The next day was consumed by the soldiers in crossing the deepest channels in canoes, and on the following day they traveled but three miles, much of the time in water up to their necks. Coming to a small elevation called "Sugar Camp," they stopped and were compelled to stay for another day in a drenching rain without food. Four miles of water still lay between them and the highlands. The next morning dawned more clear, and Colonel Clark addressed a speech to the men, informing them that when they had crossed the plain and reached the woods beyond, there would be an end to their fatigue, and the prize would be before them.

The men responded with a shout and followed their leader as he stepped into the stream. Then followed the most thrilling of all their experiences. The water was so deep in places that Colonel Clark feared many of the weakest would be drowned, but by the help of the strong, all reached the woods, shouting and cheering encouragingly. Here, however, the water was as deep as on the plains, but those who were short and weak, by floating upon logs and clinging to branches, managed to struggle on for several miles farther until they reached a dry spot of ground, ten acres in extent. Here fires were made, but the weak were so exhausted it was necessary for two strong men to take one between them and march up and down. Fortunately an Indian canoe, containing some squaws and children on their way to Vincennes, was captured. In the boat, to their delight, they found a "quarter of buffalo, corn, tallow and kettles." Broth was immediately made and served to the famishing soldiers. With fine weather their spirits revived and, marching a little way to the edge of the timber, they came into full view of Vincennes, not two miles distant. "Every man now feasted his eyes and forgot that he had suffered anything, saying that all that had passed was owing to good policy, and nothing but what a man could bear." A number of horsemen who were shooting ducks in the ponds were decoyed to camp and captured. By one of these men, Colonel Clark sent the following letter to the people of the village:

"To the Inhabitants of Vincennes:

Gentlemen: Being now within two miles of your village with my army, determined to take your fort this night, and not being willing to surprise you, I take this opportunity

to request such of you as are true citizens, and willing to enjoy the liberty which I bring you, to remain still in your houses, and those, if any there be, who are friends of the King, let them instantly repair to the fort, and join the hair-buyer general, and fight like men. And if any of the latter do not go to the fort, and shall be discovered afterwards, they may depend upon severe punishment. On the contrary, those who are true friends to liberty, may depend upon being well treated; and I once more request them to keep out of the streets, for every one I find in arms on my arrival shall be treated as an enemy!

Respectfully yours,
George Rogers Clark."

Soon after sunset Clark, with his little army, entered and took possession of the town. Hamilton knew nothing of the presence of the Americans until the firing began upon the fort and one of his men was shot down. Then the drums called the garrison to arms, but the fort was completely surrounded, and when a porthole was opened to thrust out a cannon, a dozen bullets from the unerring rifles of the woodsmen found an entrance. Thus the attack continued during the night. Protected by houses, palings, ditches and banks, the riflemen poured in a deadly fire, whenever a form appeared or a window opened.

At nine o'clock the next morning, Colonel Clark demanded the surrender of the fort. While Hamilton was deliberating, the men cooked and ate the first regular meal they had tasted since their entrance into the drowned lands. Upon Hamilton's refusal to surrender, the firing began again. Clark found it difficult to keep his men from exposing themselves by rushing from cover to storm the fort, in such contempt did they hold the marksmanship and skill of the British soldiers. It was sport for these men,

who could shoot the head from a turkey at one hundred yards, to fire through the loop-holes and send their bullets into every crack and crevice. In the afternoon Hamilton, seeing that it was useless to continue the defence longer, agreed to surrender.

The next day Colonel Clark took possession of the fort, changed its name to Fort Patrick Henry, ran up the American flag and fired a salute to celebrate the important event. The prisoners were permitted to return to Detroit, except Hamilton and a few officers, who were sent to Virginia. The Indian tribes of the region hastened to make peace with one who had conquered their allies with so little difficulty.

Two important advantages were gained by the capture of this territory: the Indian tribes were subdued, and the colonies were able to claim the Northwest Territory, with the Mississippi for its western boundary. The Virginia Assembly controlled all the captured country, which they called the Territory of Illinois.

Colonel Clark served as a soldier during the remainder of the Revolution, and at its close he enlisted under the flag of France and fought the Spanish on the lower Mississippi River. The latter years of his life were spent near Louisville fighting disease and poverty. Near the close of his life the State of Virginia offered him a sword. To the committee which presented it, he exclaimed: "When Virginia needed a sword I gave her one. She sends me now a toy. I want bread." With these words he thrust the blade into the ground and snapped it with a blow from his crutch.

CHAPTER X.

THE ORDINANCE OF 1787.

At the close of the Revolution the States of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Virginia, by virtue of their original charters, laid claim to all the territory between the Ohio River and the Great Lakes westward to the Mississippi. These colonies, with great reluctance, finally ceded their claims to the newly established national government, and the country was called "The territory of the United States, northwest of the Ohio River." In this manner did our Government come into possession of the vast domain from which were carved the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Settlers began to enter the region, and it became necessary for Congress to provide a form of government which might insure peace and security to the people. Accordingly, on July 13, 1787, the "Continental Congress" framed a law which is known in history as the "Ordinance of 1787." As this instrument has become so famous it may be well to notice some of its wise provisions which were helpful in promoting the happiness and prosperity of the people.

In England many had been put to death because they refused to worship in the manner prescribed by the King. Even in the colonies there were those who believed that every man should follow a form of worship established by the Government. The "Ordinance of 1787" provided that "no person of peaceable demeanor was to be molested on

account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments." The kings of England had often thrown men into prison and kept them there for many years, without allowing them a form of trial. Sir Walter Raleigh was thus confined in the Tower of London for twelve years. Unjust imprisonment has ever been a weapon used by tyrants to close the mouths of men whom they feared. To provide against this abuse, it was enacted in the ordinance that: "No man shall be deprived of his liberty or his property, but by the judgment of his peers (equals), or the law of the land: and should it be necessary for the common preservation to take any person's property, or to demand his particular services, full compensation shall be made for the same."

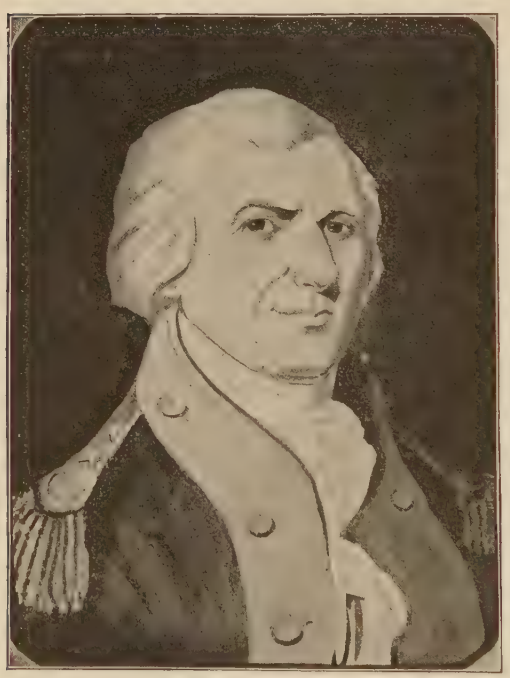
In England only a few had the means of procuring an education, but the colonists in America at an early day established schools for their children. The framers of the "Ordinance of 1787," with wise forethought, organized a system of free schools to be supported by taxation and by money derived from the sale of public lands, some of the lands being also set aside for the support of a university in each State.

At the close of the eighteenth century slavery existed in many countries. In America it flourished in several States.

Statesmen were beginning to see the evil of the continuance of such a system. Others believed slavery to be wicked and contrary to the laws of God. Honest toil is honorable. Wherever slavery exists the people look upon work as degrading. The framers of the "Ordinance of 1787" were providing a home for honest, self-respecting people. They therefore enacted that slavery and involun-

tary servitude, except as punishment for crimes, should be prohibited forever in the Northwest Territory.

Furthermore, the territory was to be divided into not less than three States. If it seemed best, Congress might "form one or two (more) States in that part which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan." Civil authority was vested in a governor who was to be commander-in-chief of the militia, with power, until a general assembly was organized, to appoint all civil officers in each county. A court consisting of three judges was also appointed. These judges, with the governor, were to adopt such of the laws of the original thirteen States as were deemed best for the territory. Whenever



GEN. ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.

there were five thousand free male inhabitants of legal age within the limits of the territory, the people were to elect a general assembly, consisting of one representative for every five hundred voters. The assembly was to choose ten men, and Congress was to select five of these to act as a Council or Upper House.

Such was the government provided by the "Ordinance of 1787," and with slight changes it has proven adequate to the needs of territorial government up to the present day. Whenever the population of a Territory numbered 60,000, it might take the necessary steps to become a State. The wise provisions of this ordinance respecting personal liberty, education and slavery have more or less influenced the destinies of all States formed from the public domain.

President Washington appointed as the first governor General Arthur St. Clair, and the little village of Marietta on the Ohio River became the seat of territorial government. In 1788 Governor St. Clair and his three judges entered upon the duties of their offices.

October 6, 1790, President Washington wrote to the governor requesting him to carry out "the wishes of the late Congress relating to the inhabitants at Vincennes, Kaskaskia, and the other villages upon the Mississippi."

Continuing he writes, "It is a circumstance of some importance that the said inhabitants should, as soon as possible, possess the lands to which they are entitled by some known and fixed principle." Governor St. Clair immediately set about carrying out President Washington's commands. Accompanied by his secretary, he arrived at

the village of Kaskaskia in February, 1791, determined to adjust matters in a fair and impartial manner.

The country as far north as the Little Mackinaw Creek on the Illinois River was organized into a county and named St. Clair, with Cahokia as the county seat. This, the "mother county" of Illinois, was divided into three judicial districts. A court of common pleas was established and three judges appointed: John Edgar, of Kaskaskia, John C. Moulin, of Cahokia, and John Baptiste Barbeau, of Prairie du Rocher.

William St. Clair, brother to the governor, became the first recorder of deeds, and William Biggs the first sheriff. The first lawyer to locate in Illinois was John Rice Jones, a highly educated Welshman, who came to Kaskaskia in 1790. It is said he possessed much ability and had a practice extending from Kaskaskia to the Ohio River.

Lawsuits were as expensive and inconvenient in those days as at the present time. In a certain suit brought in Cahokia to recover the value of a cow, the damages were assessed at $16.00. The defendants, who lived at Prairie du Chien, appealed the case. The sheriff, with his summons and subpoenas in his pocket, fitted out a boat with goods suitable to trade with Indians, and started on his journey of four hundred miles to carry out the instructions of the court. Having served his subpoenas and his summons, he returned in the same manner. His charges for mileage and service, together with other expenses, carried the costs of the suit to more than $900.

CHAPTER XI.

THE ILLINOIS PIONEERS.

The soldiers of Colonel George Rogers Clark were the first Americans to enter the Illinois country. Some of these men probably remained here, while others, after their term of enlistment had expired, returned to Kentucky and Virginia, spreading abroad glowing reports of the wonderful richness and fertility of this region.

In the spring of 1781, a company of people from Maryland, composed largely of Colonel Clark's veterans under the leadership of James Moore, crossed the Alleghany Mountains and prepared to descend the Ohio River. A number of flat boats, at that time called "arks," were built for this purpose. These boats were from thirty to forty feet in length and ten or twelve feet in breadth, a large craft for those days. The entire boat was decked with a rude, strong roof, which had much the appearance of a farmyard, for it was covered with wagons, carts and plows, spinning wheels, hay, coops of chickens, bags of seed and feed for the cattle. Beneath the roof were crowded together the men, women and children, with the horses, sheep, hogs and cattle. At length when all was prepared, the little fleet of boats loaded with people and animals glided out upon the current of the Ohio and began the long voyage to the "Illinois country." Many were the dangers encountered. Sometimes the voyagers were attacked by Indians; then it was necessary for the women

and children to crouch low while the men beat back the savages by firing through the "port holes" with which the sides of the "arks" were provided. Often at night they dared not light a fire for fear that the blaze might attract the lurking foe.

After a journey of many days the boats reached the mouth of the Ohio and, stemming the current of the Mississippi, arrived in safety at Kaskaskia. The little company settled on the broad valley west of the village; and the locality, from the fact that they were the only American settlers, received the name of "American Bottom."

But the majority of the immigrants to the new country came in great covered wagons drawn by oxen or horses. These brave pioneers, unmindful of the dangers around them, pushed their way through the dark and tangled forests. If the streams which intercepted the route were too deep to be forded a raft would be constructed on which the family, the cattle and the wagons were ferried to the opposite bank. Occasionally the cattle would stray from the camp during the night and be lost for days.

At all times the hunters of the party watched for the approach of prowling Indians. At night, as they gathered about the blazing camp fire and engaged in songs and merriment, one of the number would be detailed to stand guard. The steaks of buffalo, bear or deer, which were cooked every night, were supplied by the rifles of the hunters. A Johnny cake, baked before the fire on a "journey board," from which was derived the name, completed the abundant supper.

When the horses were turned loose to feed upon the rich grass of the open glade, a tinkling bell was attached

to the neck of the leader. Its noise served to guide the owner to the spot where the horses had strayed during the night.

The women and children slept in the wagons, but the men and boys, wrapped in their blankets, lay down about the camp fire.

The journey usually occupied many months. At last the family or colony, having arrived on the banks of a river whose beauty pleased their fancy, resolved to make a permanent home. Rude cabins were erected, and the work of clearing away the forests and planting a crop in the virgin soil was begun without delay. The early immigrants disliked to settle upon the beautiful prairies on account of the distance from water, the absence of shade and on account of green-headed flies which swarmed there.

In 1782, the settlement of New Design was established on the beautiful elevated lands overlooking the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers.

Another colony of one hundred and fifty-four people from Virginia arrived in 1797, under the leadership of Rev. David Bagley. They had been subjected to much exposure and suffered many hardships. The season was unusually wet, and more than half the colonists died from the effects of a malignant fever. "Fever and ague" and "milk-sick," a peculiar disorder, caused by drinking the milk of cattle diseased from eating the rank herbage or a peculiar weed, attacked many new comers.

The many cases of sickness gave rise to the report that Illinois was an unhealthy country, and this, for a time, checked the tide of immigration.

The habits and manners of these early pioneers were

plain and simple. Accustomed to life in the forest, they knew little of the ways of more thickly settled communities. The deer, bear, buffalo, elk and fox provided material from which were made hunting shirts, caps and moccasins. Skilful with ax, drawing-knife and auger, each settler made, not only his humble cabin, but the necessary furniture as well.

Oiled paper supplied the place of window glass. The beams of the floor and the weight poles of the roof were held in place by wooden pegs. The door swung upon wooden hinges and was fastened by a wooden latch, which was lifted from without by a deer thong run through a hole. Any person was at liberty to enter a home if "the latch string was out." Often the rude cradle was made from the half of a hollow log. Rich indeed was the housewife who could display upon her broad mantel shelf a few pewter dishes and spoons which had been brought from the old home "back East." In those early days one could travel the entire length of a stream without finding a bridge, and a single water mill ground wheat and corn for the entire settlement. Sometimes the spring floods caught the settler unprepared and prevented him from going to mill. At such a time, when his meal had "run out," he resorted to the "gritter." This was made by perforating a sheet of tin, obtained from some cast-off vessel. Inverted, it was nailed to a board and looked much like a large nutmeg grater. Putting one end of the board in a tray made from a hollow log, the settler, grasping an ear of soaked corn with both hands, proceeded to rub it over the roughened surface. In this primitive way did our fathers often obtain the meal for their corn bread. "Lye hominy" was also

a staple article of food and, with the pork to be found in every household, gave rise to the expression "hog and hominy."

As fear of the Indians decreased, farms became larger, and settlements grew into little villages. Cotton and flax were raised, and herds of sheep were pastured in the woods. Gradually clothing made from cotton, flax and wool took the place of that made from the skins of wild beasts.

These pioneers had many "merry makings" to enliven the arduous labor of clearing land, splitting rails and planting crops. If misfortune overtook a settler the entire neighborhood turned out to help gather the harvest or plow the land. While the men worked in the field their wives, who had accompanied them, spread a bountiful repast upon tables made of wagon boards. After dinner the men gathered in groups and talked politics or engaged in wrestling and foot racing. Often, however, a horse race enlivened the day's pleasure, for these early settlers were passionately fond of this sport. They were good story tellers, too, and at such a gathering some veteran of the Revolution related the story of the capture of Burgoyne, or extolled the bravery of Morgan at the battle of Cowpens. Others, famous in Indian wars, told and retold of hairbreadth escapes from the savage foe. "Log rollings" and "husking bees" were also popular gatherings. And after the work was finished, to the music of a squeaking fiddle, the merry makers, old and young, danced until the early morning hours. Then the horses were "hooked up," and with much noise and laughter the company separated.

Living remote from settlements, each man played the part of carpenter, blacksmith, or harness-maker, as neces-

sity required. James Lemon, a pioneer minister and farmer of Monroe County, was one day engaged in plowing a field upon which the stubble was so heavy that his son was compelled to use a pitch-fork to keep the plow from "clogging." When the team was turned out for dinner the father, as was his habit, left the harness upon the plow beam. The boy, having tired of the work, remained behind long enough to hide one of the home-made collars, expecting to have a "playing-spell" while his father was employed in making a new one. On returning from dinner the farmer missed the collar, and after reflecting a few moments, promptly took off his leather breeches. These the boy was compelled to stuff with straw and stubble. They were then straddled across the neck of the horse and served as a collar. The father, bare-legged, followed the plow and kept the roguish son busily at work during the long afternoon.

Many of these early pioneers were men of great force of character, and afterwards rose to positions of prominence in the State and nation. Shadrach Bond, the first governor of the State, was a member of the first colony that settled in the "Illinois country."

CHAPTER XII.

THE ILLINOIS RANGERS.

The frequent outbreaks of the Indians at the opening of the War of 1812 made it necessary to provide for the protection of the settlers. Accordingly Congress organized ten companies of mounted rangers and assigned to four of them the task of guarding the Illinois frontiers. Each man provided his own horse, gun and provisions, and was paid one dollar for every day of service.

These hardy rangers, accustomed to the life of the frontier, were a most valuable aid in repelling the attacks of the Indians.

One of the most daring of these men was Tom Higgins, a member of Captain Toumey's company. Tom was strong and muscular, absolutely without fear, and possessed of good judgment in time of danger. One morning when stationed at Hills Fort, near the present site of Greenville, a band of Indians was discovered, and the Rangers started in pursuit of them.

The wily savages, knowing they were being followed, ambushed their pursuers, and killed several of them. Although the Rangers fought bravely, they were greatly outnumbered, and finally retreated to the fort. Tom Higgins, however, waited behind the others to have another pull at them, and taking careful aim, shot down a savage.

Just as he was mounting his horse, which had been wounded, a voice from the tall grass saluted him with the

words "I'm wounded, Tom, you won't leave me?" Higgins replied, "Come on, Burgess, and I will put you on my horse." As Tom attempted to lift the wounded man the terrified animal jerked the bridle from his owner's arm and ran away. Keeping the savages at a distance with his leveled rifle, Higgins directed Burgess to crawl through the long prairie grass to the fort, which was in plain view.

As soon as the unfortunate man was well on his way to a place of safety Tom plunged into a dense thicket and, closely followed by the Indians, ran for the fort, when suddenly he was confronted by other savages. To avoid them he leaped into a deep ravine and continued his desperate flight. As he ran he perceived for the first time that he had been shot, and looking over his shoulder, saw that he was being closely pursued by three savages. At this instant the foremost Indian fired and Tom fell, wounded the second time; as he arose the other two fired, and he fell again, pierced by two more bullets.

Then the three savages, with uplifted tomahawks, rushed forward to complete their work, but the brave fellow arose the third time, and by presenting his rifle first at one and then at another kept them at bay for a time. The largest, thinking that the rifle must be empty, sprang forward, only to fall dead with a bullet in his brain. The other warriors, with a shout, rushed forward to avenge the death of their comrade, and a terrific hand to hand conflict began. The wounded man defended himself with a long knife until he was again hurled to the ground by a blow from a tomahawk, which was thrown with such unerring aim that it cut off his ear. As Tom lay upon the ground the two

sprang upon him, but he managed to seize a spear from one and thrust it through the body of the other.

The unequal combat had occurred in full view of the fort, but beyond the range of the rifles held by men, who believed that it was all a ruse to draw them out into another ambuscade. Finally Mrs. Pursley, a brave woman who had watched the battle, mounted a fleet horse and started to the rescue, declaring that she "would not see so brave a man killed." The men, not to be outdone by a woman, hastened after her, and at their approach the remaining Indian fled.

Tom, fainting from loss of blood, was carried to the fort, where his wounds were dressed and the balls extracted from his body. For many days he lingered between life and death, but eventually recovered and lived to receive a pension for his bravery. Later in his life he was made the doorkeeper of the State General Assembly at Vandalia.

During this period there was incessant war between the red man and the white, each watching for every opportunity to overcome the other. It happened that as Captain Short and his Rangers were encamped near the present site of Covington, in Washington County, they discovered "Indian signs," and immediately started in pursuit of the savages, who were driving off a number of stolen horses. Captain Short knew from the signs that the band was large, and dispatched a trusty scout for reinforcements. The Rangers overtook the savages and a battle ensued, in which the white men were worsted and beat a hasty retreat. Moses Short escaped being killed because of a thick twist of tobacco in his pouch, which received the bullet that otherwise would have entered his body.

The next day reinforcements arrived, and the Rangers again took up the trail of the Indians, who, flushed with victory, had grown careless. When approaching the forks of the Little Wabash River the report of a rifle warned the Rangers that they were near the foe, and, by a cautious advance, the savages were surrounded before they were aware of the white men's presence. When the Indians discovered that there was no hope of escape they chanted their death song and fought desperately until the last warrior was killed. By such bloody conflicts was the soil of Illinois wrested from the red men.

During the War of 1812, the Indians, reinforced by numbers of British, often gained the advantage over the Rangers who dared to penetrate into the "Indian Country," as Northern Illinois and Iowa were called.

In the spring of 1814 Governor Clark of Missouri sent a force of two hundred men up the Mississippi to attack Prairie du Chien, which was held by the British and Indians. The attack was successful, but in the summer the fort was retaken by the enemy.

General Howard, ignorant of this unfortunate occurrence, determined to send reinforcements to the remote post, and fitted out a force of one hundred and eight men, who were placed in charge of Lieutenant Campbell. Sixty-six of these men were Illinois Rangers, and, commanded by Captains Riggs and Rector, occupied two of the three keelboats in which the expedition embarked.

The Indians were not ignorant of the destination of the soldiers, and resolved to give them battle at the Rapids near Rock Island. When the boats reached this point the wily savages approached with every profession of friend-

ship, but quietly urged the French boatmen, against whom they cherished no ill will, to return to their homes. But for this event Lieutenant Campbell and his men might have been taken off their guard.

As the boats proceeded up the rapids the barge containing Lieutenant Campbell, which was in the rear, was blown by the strong wind upon a small island near the Illinois shore. With the approach of evening the boat was tied up, the necessary sentinels stationed, and the men were ordered to prepare fires upon which to cook their suppers. This was the opportunity for which the Indians had waited. Under the command of Black Hawk they poured across the narrow channel and rushed upon the troops, who quickly sought the shelter of their boat. From behind logs and trees the Indians poured in a storm of bullets upon the soldiers, who defended themselves as best they could. In the midst of the battle the boat took fire, and every man would have been destroyed but for the timely arrival of the Illinois Rangers who, at the first sound of firing, had turned their boats, and in the teeth of a howling gale, hastened to the rescue.

Captain Rigg's boat became stranded upon the jutting rocks of the rapids, but Captain Rector with his brave men, in plain view of the hundreds of savages who lined the shore, coolly guided his vessel to the windward of the burning craft, while his Rangers poured volley after volley into the savages. The French boatmen leaped into the water and, protected by the side of the boat, skilfully guided it to the burning barge. The soldiers and wounded men were quickly transferred to the rescuing boat, which glided safely out into the midst of the stream and began

the retreat to St. Louis. The island where this attack occurred is still called Campbell's Island.

The Rangers in Captain Rigg's boat had their hands full to keep at bay the savages by whom they were surrounded. In the night, after the fierce wind had subsided, they succeeded in getting their boat off the rocks, and followed the others to St. Louis, which they reached without further losses.

The next year another body of troops, commanded by Major Zachary Taylor, attempted to penetrate the Indian country, with the purpose of burning villages and destroying cornfields. But the expedition was no more successful than the previous one, and the savages compelled them to retire with a serious loss.

With the beginning of winter gloom and fear settled down upon the frontier of Illinois, but the treaty of Ghent between America and England closed the war, and the Indian depredations ceased for a number of years.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE BLOCK HOUSES AND OLD FORT DEARBORN.

As an additional protection against the savages, many block houses were erected. These extended from the Illinois River to the Kaskaskia, thence to the Salt Springs near the present town of Equality, thence up the Ohio and Wabash Rivers. These forts furnished a refuge for nearly all settlers of the frontier.

They were built of hewn logs, carefully put together, so as to afford no crevice for hand or foot of an Indian foe. The doors were made of thick puncheons, held in place by strong wooden beams. Port-holes on every side, above the height of one's head, gave opportunity to repel an attack. The second story projected over the first and, in this projecting floor, holes were made through which rifles could be fired at any Indian who might try to force an entrance. Sometimes these block houses were located on the edge of a prairie, but, if situated in the timber, the ground was cleared for a distance on every side, that no protection might be given to the lurking foe.

Stockade forts were made by building four block houses at the corners of a square, and connecting them with a stockade twelve or fifteen feet in height. This fence was made of huge posts placed side by side, and planted firmly in the ground. If there was no spring within the enclosure, a well was dug, and sometimes huts were erected. Port-holes seven or eight feet above the ground were reached from raised platforms. Two heavy entrance gates, securely

barred, were made large enough to admit wagons and cattle. In times of danger the families of the entire neighborhood would flee to such a fort, bringing their stock with them. By day the cattle were permitted to graze in the clearing and woods, but at night they were usually driven within the enclosure. Often, when the gates were opened in the morning, the savages concealed in the woods beyond the clearing would fire upon the inmates of the fort.

Camp Russell, the largest and strongest of these stockades, was built by Governor Edwards at Edwardsville. The ancient cannon of old Fort Chartres were removed thither and placed upon the walls, where they served to overawe the savages. This fort became the center of military operations during the War of 1812, and was made a storehouse for supplies. Within this stockade, defended by stout hearts and strong arms, the people of the territory often sought shelter and protection.

Twenty-two block houses were erected between Kaskaskia and the present city of Alton, but, in spite of these precautions, the settlers were frequently attacked within the fortifications themselves.

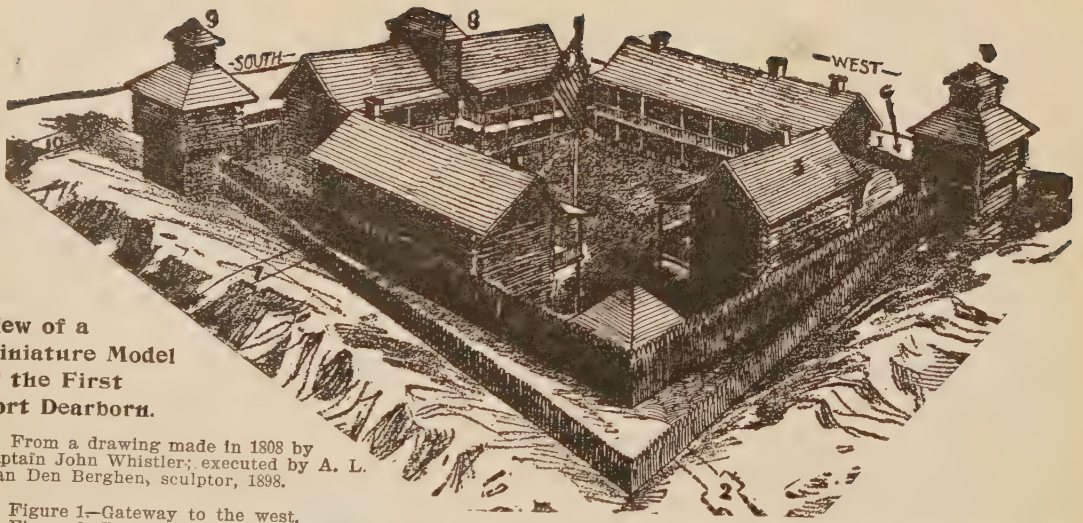
One evening three men, venturing out from Jourdan's fort to gather firewood, were attacked by Indians and only one succeeded in making his escape. At another time a band of savages, wandering through the woods, came into the vicinity of Hill's block house. Stealthily approaching, they picked the mud from a crevice in the chimney and saw a soldier sitting near the fire. A rifle was inserted and the man was shot. The report of the gun caused the soldiers to rush to their posts. Now it happened that a man named Lindley had gone out of the stockade to carry

feed to the stock and had left the large gate open. The Indians made a rush for the entrance, but the men within hastily closed and barred it, leaving poor Lindley on the outside, in the midst of the terrified cattle.

The baffled Indians turned their attention to the soldier who had sought refuge among the herd. Every creature stood with dilated nostril and uplifted tail, glaring at them. As the savages with raised weapons and blood-curdling yells rushed forward, the cattle, bellowing loudly, turned and fled. Lindley, who was a powerful man, on the instant contrived a plan of escape. Leaping astride a steer as it passed him, he coiled his long arms around the astonished creature's neck and slipped beneath its huge body. The arrows of the Indians only served to quicken the speed of the herd, and Lindley was quickly carried out of danger. The savages returned to the attack of the fort, but at length were repulsed and driven away, taking their dead and wounded with them. That night Lindley returned to the fort and in a few days the scattered herd was recovered.

The most pretentious defense against the Indians of Northern Illinois was old Fort Dearborn, which was erected at the mouth of the Chicago River in 1804, and named in honor of the Revolutionary hero, General Dearborn.

At the breaking out of the War of 1812 it was garrisoned by fifty soldiers under the command of Captain Heald. By the direction of General Hull this garrison evacuated Fort Dearborn and attempted to reach Fort Wayne. Upon entering the broken sand-hill country to the southeast, they were treacherously attacked and twenty-three of the garrison murdered, together with many women and children who accompanied them.



View of a Miniature Model of the First Fort Dearborn.

From a drawing made in 1808 by Captain John Whistler; executed by A. L. Van Den Berghen, sculptor, 1898.

Figure 1—Gateway to the west.

Figure 2—Tunnel and underground well, now in the middle of the Chicago River. Into this well Captain Heald threw the rum and whisky whose loss angered the Indians and did more than anything else to cause the massacre of the whites.

Figure 3—This building stood a little north of the spot where the steamer Virginia lands its passengers to-day.

Figure 4—Flagstaff. This pole rose practically at what is now the foot of Michigan Avenue.

Figure 5—This blockhouse stood on land where to-day the river flows under Rush street bridge.

Figure 6—Directly under this point is the United States barge office of the present.

Figure 7—The street directly south of the Goodrich docks runs at this point to-day.

Figure 8—Here is about the spot where Hoyt's grocery establishment stands.

Figure 9—Close to the site of this blockhouse Booth's packing establishment is now doing business at the foot of Michigan Avenue.

Figures 10 and 11—Show the location approximately of South Water and Randolph streets to-day.

CHAPTER XIV.

KEEL BOATS.

During the early settlement of the Illinois country the rivers formed the great highways of travel. Goods were brought in flat boats and barges from Pittsburg and New Orleans. The wheat and produce of the country were floated down to Louisiana in boats manned by the settlers themselves, but as the voyage was full of danger and required many months, a class of men called keel-boatmen gradually arose, who made this work their sole business. Their boats were built very large and symmetrical, with a cabin for passengers as well as a space set apart for freight and stock.

A long oar, sometimes thirty feet in length, with a blade like the fin of a fish, was used for steering the craft, while four large oars at the bow furnished the propelling power. A speed of five or six miles an hour could be obtained when gliding down the stream; but it was no easy task for such a boat to stem the current of a river, especially the Mississippi. A large sail was used when the wind favored, but often the crew walked many weary miles along the shore, and pulled the boat after them by means of a long rope. Sometimes the rope was carried ahead of the boat and attached to a rock or over-hanging tree, and then the crew stood upon the deck and pulled "hand over hand."

The dangers of river navigation were increased by the large number of pirates and savages that infested the banks

of the Mississippi River. These desperadoes would sally forth from their hiding places at the mouth of a convenient river or from the steep bluffs near Grand Tower, and fall upon solitary keel boats, seizing the cargo and murdering the crew and passengers.

At length the pirates became so bold that keel boats were compelled to travel together for protection.

In 1797 Spain placed on the Mississippi a large fleet of armed boats, which speedily cleared the river of these outlaws.

At Beausoleil Island, in the year 1787, river pirates boarded a richly-laden keel boat bound from New Orleans to St. Louis, capturing the owner and the entire crew.

Their rescue was effected by the courage and daring of a young negro servant named Cacassotte, who shrewdly planned it. By laughter and good humor he gained the confidence of the robbers and persuaded them that he was delighted thus to gain his freedom. Cacassotte, who acted as cook, resolved to attempt the execution of his plan at the dinner hour after the pirates had imbibed freely. When the desperadoes had seated themselves at the bow and stern the negro and his two colored comrades went among them distributing food and drink.

As he appeared before the leader, who, armed to the teeth, was standing at the bow, Cacassotte gave the signal, and instantly three robbers were struggling in the deep water. With the swiftness of lightning, they rushed upon three more of the men, who straightway joined their companions in the river.

Before the remainder of the robbers could recover their presence of mind they too were pushed overboard. Then,

seizing the rifles which were scattered upon the deck, the negroes shot the drunken fellows as they struggled in the stream.

These keel-boatmen were fearless and hardy men. Their peculiar occupation developed herculean strength in many, and made desperate characters of not a few.

Naked to the waist, they propelled their boats with their strong arms, amidst many dangers. At the close of the day they partook of a strong pull at the whiskey bottle before eating their hearty supper of hominy and pork.

To the music of a sprightly fiddle or the rippling of the waters, these men were then lulled to sleep, to be awakened the next morning by the steersman's horn, which called them to another pull at the bottle and an early breakfast.

The keel-boatmen greatly enjoyed rude sports. Some were excellent shots with the rifle. All were fond of fighting, and often waged battle with the crews of rafts and flat boats, whom they cordially hated.

The most notorious character among these keel-boatmen was Mike Fink, who acted in the capacity of spy, scout and boatman in the war of 1812. Born at Pittsburg, from early boyhood Mike followed the life of keel-boatman. He was a man of great strength, skillful with axe and oar, and noted as the best rifle shot in the Mississippi Valley. As his keel boat, the "Lightfoot," glided down the river Fink would amuse himself by shooting the tails from the pigs upon the shore. Seeing a negro upon the wharf with his foot elevated, the reckless fellow shot off his heel. The poor darkey fell to the ground howling with pain. At the trial which followed, the jury refused to listen to Mike's ex-

planation, which was that he wished "to correct the defective foot and prepare it for a genteel boot."

Fink had a boon companion named Carpenter, who was also expert with the rifle. The two friends frequently amused themselves and entertained the crowd of boatmen by shooting tin cups full of whiskey from each other's heads.

One day, while under the influence of liquor, Fink and Carpenter quarreled, and after apparently making up decided to indulge in their favorite pastime.

Carpenter was the first to place the cup on his own head. Mike walked away the required distance, turned, took careful aim and fired; Carpenter fell dead. Fink tearfully claimed that it was an accident, and the spectators believed this to be true. A few months after, however, the drunken fellow boasted that he had killed Carpenter intentionally. Thereupon a friend of the murdered man shot him upon the spot. Thus ended the life of one of the most notable and desperate of these early characters.

A gentleman who took a trip on one of these boats in company with his cousin, who was going to New Orleans, has left an interesting account of a disaster which befell them a few miles above the mouth of the Ohio River.

"One dark rainy night our boat drifted rapidly down stream with the current. We usually 'tied up along the shore' on very dark nights, but our captain, who was also pilot, declared he could steer in the darkest night that ever came.

"Most of the passengers had retired to their cabins and were asleep, when suddenly there came a crash, which sent me out of my berth onto the floor. I sprang to my feet

and my first thought was of Nancy (the lady under my charge). I ran to her cabin and found her up and dressed, and not nearly so badly frightened as I had feared she would be.

"'What has happened?' she asked.

"'The boat has struck a snag and may sink. Stay right here until I come for you.'

"Then I went on deck, where all was confusion. There were twelve or fifteen passengers there, running about like mad people.

"The most excited of all were five men from St. Louis. They had dragged their trunk and carpet bags to the deck, and were calling for a skiff or yawl to take them to shore. All the captain or mate could do or say to quiet them was in vain. Three or four lanterns were lighted, and served to increase the terror of all by revealing the black, turbid waters into which we were sinking.

"The men who had brought their trunk on deck seized one of the yawls, leaped in with their baggage, before any one could prevent them, and pulled to shore, which the flashes of lightning showed was not more than thirty yards away.

"About the time they landed with their baggage, I observed that the boat began to rock just like a basin sinking in shallow water. The captain noticed this also, and shouted:

"'You are all safe. The boat is on a sand bar and can't sink.'

"In fact one of the crew had cast the lead line a moment before, and discovered that we were in only about five feet

of water. I went back to Nancy, who was anxiously awaiting my return.

"'What shall we do?' she asked.

"'Go to bed and sleep until morning,' I answered.

"She did so. It rained all night. It was one of those cold, disagreeable rains that makes one shiver, and one's bones ache. Next morning we saw five or six wet, miserable wretches sitting on the bank, shivering and begging the captain to take them on board.

"They were the selfish cowards who would have escaped with their luggage and left the remainder of us to drown. Their haste to get to land was so great that they forgot to moor the yawl in which they went ashore, and it had floated away.

"Though the captain had another, he would not send for them, and left them all night in the rain. But soon after daylight he brought them all aboard.

"Our boat had struck a snag which knocked a hole in the bottom; but fortunately, after striking, we came immediately to such shallow water that we could not sink.

"We lived in this grounded boat for over a week before another keel boat came and took us down the river to our journey's end."

With the advent of steam both flat and keel boats gradually disappeared, and with them departed the race of brave and hardy men who played so important a part in the development and settlement of Illinois.

STATE PERIOD

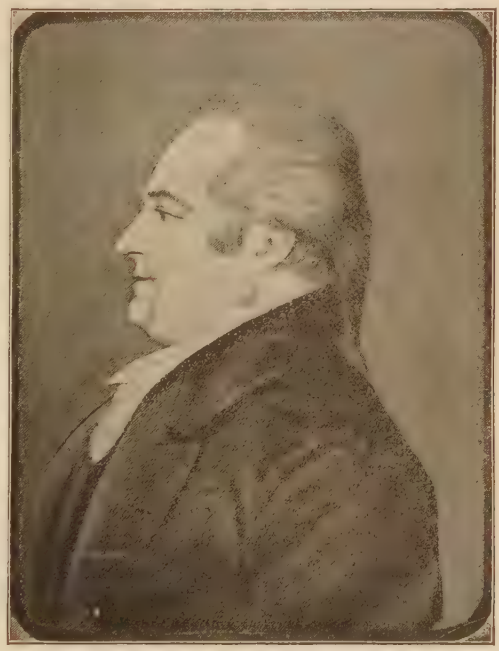
LOVEJOY MONUMENT, ALTON

CHAPTER XV.

STATEHOOD AND THE CONSTITUTIONS.

In 1809 the Territory of Illinois was separated from that of Indiana, a territorial government was organized and Ninian Edwards, of Kentucky, was appointed governor.

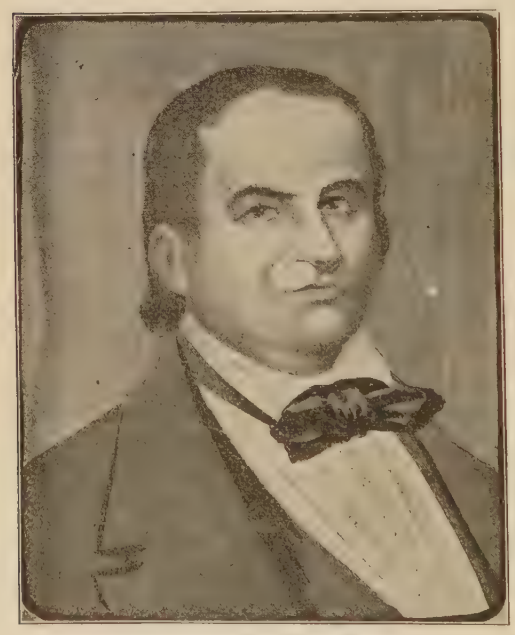
Partly on account of peace with the Indians, which followed the War of 1812, and partly owing to an act of Congress in 1813, which gave settlers the right to "pre-empt" the public lands, the tide of immigration began to roll in upon the new region. The pioneer had used deer skins, coon skins and various other pelts as a medium of exchange, but the payment of the



NINIAN EDWARDS.

soldiers and the arrival of immigrants caused money to become abundant.

"The Bank of Illinois" was established at Shawneetown in 1816, and the following year other banks were located at Kaskaskia and Edwardsville. Although the population had not reached 60,000, the number required for statehood by the "Ordinance of 1787," the people, energetic and restless, clamored to be admitted to the Union. Congress passed an "enabling act" reducing the requirement to 40,000, and a questionable census reported the necessary number.



JUDGE NATHANIEL POPE.

The territorial delegate to Congress at this time was Judge Nathaniel Pope, an able jurist of broad learning, who thoroughly understood the needs of the Illinois country. Deep and lasting should be our gratitude to this

great man for his wise forethought in placing important amendments to the bill which admitted Illinois as a State. One of these amendments provided that three-fifths of the 5 per cent fund from the sale of public lands should be devoted to "the encouragement of education" and that one-sixth of this sum was to be used exclusively for the establishing and maintenance of a university or college. To-day the State is reaping the fruits of this wise legislation.

Another amendment, which has proven of inestimable value to Illinois, provided that the northern boundary should be extended to the parallel of forty-two degrees and nine minutes north latitude. This was fifty-one miles north of the line indicated by the "Ordinance of 1787." But Judge Pope contended that it would be of great advantage to Illinois and the nation to have the new State embrace a part of Lake Michigan.

In his plea upon the floor of Congress he used these eloquent words:

"If her commerce is to be confined to that great artery of communication, the Mississippi, which washes her entire western border, and to its chief tributary on the south, the Ohio, there is a possibility that her commercial relations with the South may become so closely connected that in the event of an attempted dismemberment of the Union, Illinois will cast her lot with the Southern States. On the other hand, to fix the northern boundary of Illinois upon such a parallel of latitude as would give to the State territorial jurisdiction over the southwestern shores of Lake Michigan, would be to unite the incipient commonwealth to the States of Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York in a bond of common interest well nigh indissoluble

By the adoption of such a line Illinois may become at some future time the keystone to the perpetuity of the Union."

Judge Pope, with all his wisdom, probably "builded better than he knew." Had the original boundary prevailed Chicago would have been situated in Wisconsin instead of Illinois.

It is a question whether in that case the city would have become so great, for the Illinois and Michigan canal, and the Illinois Central R. R., which contributed so largely to her early growth, were due wholly to the enterprise of the State and would not have been built to any city in an adjoining territory.

In 1856, the votes of the fourteen counties formed from this strip made Illinois a Republican State and assured the candidacy of Abraham Lincoln for the Presidency. This change in boundary gave to Illinois the city of Galena, the home of U. S. Grant.

These are some of the reasons why the change of our northern boundary through the wisdom of Judge Pope was of very great importance to Illinois and the nation.

* * * * *

In July, 1818, thirty-three delegates gathered in Kaskaskia to draft a constitution for the future State. The greater number of them were farmers, men of limited education, but possessed of much natural ability and experience in public affairs. The constitution framed by them was a brief document, copied largely from the constitutions of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. In a series of eight articles it defined the duties and powers of the executive, judicial and legislative departments of the new State.

A curious provision of this constitution placed the veto power with a "Council of Revision," consisting of the governor and the judges of the Supreme bench.

No salaries were fixed, but it provided that the Governor should not receive to exceed $1,000 annually, and the Secretary of State not more than $600.

As if doubting the wisdom of placing too much power directly with the people, the Constitution provided that the only officers to be elected should be Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Sheriff, Coroner and County Commissioners. Other officers were to be appointed by the Governor or the General Assembly.

Their labors ended, the members of the Convention adjourned on August 26, and on December 3, of the same year, Illinois was admitted to the Union as the eighth new State.

Few public documents stand, unaltered, the test of time and experience. The ready-made Constitution was poorly suited to the needs of the people of Illinois. Upon it was heaped the blame for the many misfortunes that befell the State in its early years.

At length, in 1848, a new Constitution, which corrected many of the defects of the old, was adopted by the people. But as this Constitution was framed when the people were heavily in debt and before the natural resources of the country were known, it failed to provide for the expansion of the young State.

In December, 1869, a convention of the people gathered at Springfield "To alter, revise or amend the Constitution" for a third time. This Convention, numbering eighty-five delegates, was the ablest body that had ever gathered in

the State. It was composed of men of ripe experience, sound judgment and profound learning, who had gained distinction in their various professions as lawyers, farmers, merchants, bankers, physicians and editors. Such a body of men, inspired by high and patriotic motives, could not fail to produce a document suited to the needs of the people. The result of their deliberations was the present Constitution, which many students of politics consider wiser and better than that possessed by any other State in the Union. One of the new articles of the Constitution provides for the establishment and maintenance of an efficient public school system. It also prohibits any city, town or county from becoming a subscriber to the capital stock

SHADRACH BOND.

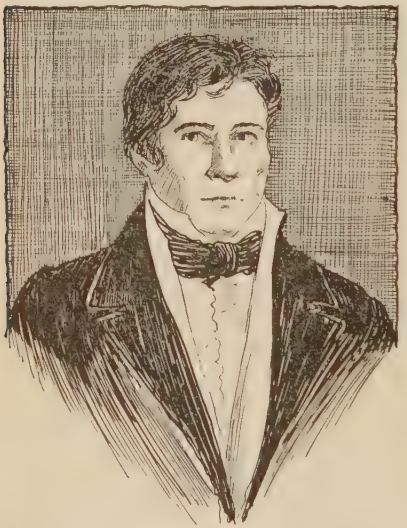
of any railroad or corporation. It further provides for the establishing of a minority representation in the State legislature. This principle permits every voter to cast as many ballots for one candidate to the legislature as there are representatives to be chosen in his district, or he may divide his votes among the various candidates as he wishes.

Thus the minority party in any district in the State may mass its votes upon a single candidate. This, the third Constitution, was adopted by the people in 1870.

The first governor of Illinois was Shadrach Bond, who, like many men who have contributed to the greatness and honor of the State, was born beyond its limits. He came to the Illinois country from Maryland in 1794, when but twenty-one years of age. Compelled to work upon a farm in the American Bottoms, he obtained little schooling, but by diligent use of his time he acquired a store of knowledge which made him a power among men of that early day. With jet black hair and eyes, tall and erect, commanding in appearance and dignified in bearing, he won the esteem and respect of all men. A captain in the War of 1812, he was elected as the first territorial delegate to Congress. Appointed as the receiver of public moneys, he removed in 1814 to Kaskaskia, and erected there a spacious brick house, which he occupied until his death.

The first lieutenant-governor of the State, Pierre Menard, was born near Montreal, Canada, in 1766. When but a lad he came to Vincennes and hired out to a French merchant. About the year 1790 he removed to Kaskaskia and set up in business for himself. He was short of stature, impulsive in his nature, bright and alert, and possessed of a kind heart that won him many friends.

The soul of honor, Pierre Menard treated red men and white with equal consideration. Over the Indians, who had implicit confidence in him, he possessed an influence greater than that of any other man in the territory. At his spacious home he dispensed a boundless hospitality to rich and poor alike. In those days salt was expensive and difficult to obtain. At one time Pierre Menard held the only supply to be found outside of St. Louis. In great distress, the people of the region came to buy. He ranged those who declared they had money with which to purchase upon one side of his store and those who confessed they had nothing on the other. Then he addressed them in his broken English: "Your men who got de money can go to St. Louis for your salt. Dese poor men who got no money shall have my salt, by gar." At the expiration of his term of office he retired from public service and lived upon his large estate at Kaskaskia, where he died in 1844. The State, in recognition of his services, named a county for him. Charles Pierre Choteau of St. Louis, the son of a former partner, erected at the east front of the capitol at Springfield a monument to his memory.

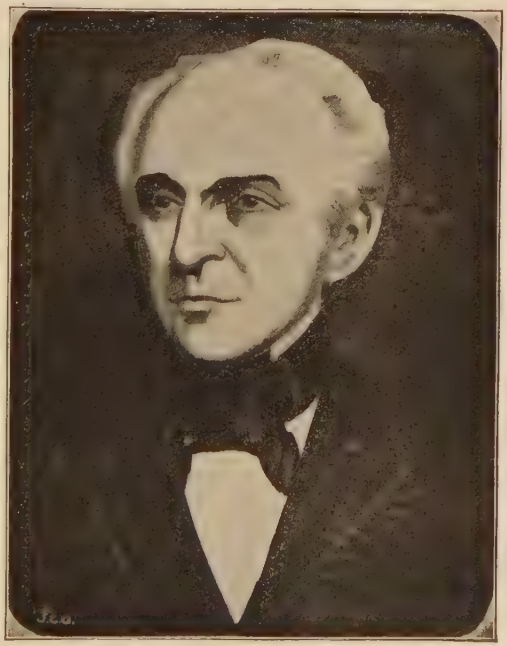


PIERRE MENARD.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE FIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY.

The first negro slaves were brought to the American colonies in 1619 by a Dutch trader and sold to the Virginia planters. A century later, in 1721, Philip Renault purchased 500 negroes at San Domingo and brought them to Fort Chartres to work in the gold and silver mines which the Commercial Company expected to open. But no mines were discovered and the slaves were sold to the French settlers. All the French slaves of Illinois were descended from



GOV. EDWARD COLES.

these San Domingo negroes. At this time the countries of Europe permitted slavery in their various colonies. The laws of France regulating the practice were humane and merciful. They provided that slaves were to be instructed in the Roman Catholic religion. The Sabbath also was to be observed by them. Marriages between whites and blacks could not be solemnized. Masters were commanded to deal kindly with their slaves, and to care for those rendered useless by infirmity or old age. Negro families were not to be separated by sale, nor could a negro over forty years of age be sold from the land on which he lived.

Slavery never flourished in Illinois. In 1810 there were but 168 slaves within the borders of the Territory, and in 1820, with all the increase in population, only 917. But many of the settlers came from States where slavery flourished and were desirous of continuing the system. When the "Ordinance of 1787," prohibiting slavery in the Northwest Territory, was passed, many people believed that the institution would disappear from the South as it had from the North. But the invention of the cotton gin and the steam engine greatly increased the demand for cotton. The States bordering upon the Gulf became vast cotton fields, cultivated by slave labor. In New England and Great Britain millions of spindles were whirling and shuttles were flying to supply the waiting world with clothing. Instead of dying out, slavery became firmly fastened upon the nation. Those who were benefited by its existence began to do all in their power to make it a permanent institution.

While Illinois was still a Territory, several attempts were made to repeal that clause of the "Ordinance of 1787,"

prohibiting slavery. These attempts upon Congress might have proved successful but for the influence of James Madison.

Illinois was admitted as a free State in 1818, only after the most serious objection from the slave-holding element. To satisfy those who had been defeated, the first general assembly, whose members had been largely reared in slave-holding communities, enacted a series of "black laws" which were as severe as those of any slave State.

Since this iniquitous institution has passed away, it may be interesting to examine these laws which did not entirely disappear from our statute books until 1848. "Any one who freed his slaves within the State was compelled to give a bond for $1,000, a guarantee that those liberated should not become public charges. Every free negro was required to obtain a certificate of freedom certified to under seal of a court of record. This certificate was recorded in the county in which his family settled. Every negro not holding such a certificate was adjudged a runaway slave. He was to be arrested, and if he was not claimed within six weeks or his freedom established, he was to be sold for a period of one year. At the end of this time if no one claimed him a certificate might be granted him. Any person employing a negro who did not hold such a certificate was liable to a fine of $1.50 for each day the negro was employed. To harbor a slave or hinder the owner from retaking him was declared a felony, punishable by a fine of two fold the value of the slave and whipping not to exceed thirty stripes. No person could sell to, buy from, or trade with any slave, without consent of his master, under penalty of forfeiting

to the owner four times the amount of the transaction. Any slave found ten miles from home without a permit was liable to arrest and to receive thirty-five stripes, on the order of a justice of the peace. A lazy or disorderly slave or bond servant was to be corrected with stripes, and for every day he refused to work he was to serve two. Riots or unlawful assemblies of slaves were punishable with stripes not to exceed thirty-nine. In all cases where white citizens were punishable by fines, slaves were punished by whipping at the rate of twenty stripes for every $8.00 fine. But the punishment was not to exceed forty stripes at any one time."

After the admission of Illinois, the entire nation soon became engaged in an angry contest over the question of admitting Missouri as a free or slave State. The excitement had not subsided at the time of the second general election in Illinois in 1822. Although the subject of slavery was not mentioned, yet every one felt that "the question was in the air." To the surprise of the people, Edward Coles, a native of Virginia and a strong anti-slavery man, was elected governor. The smouldering embers were fanned into a flame by his message to the general assembly. It recommended that the Black laws be repealed, and that the slaves of the French settlers be freed.

The friends of slavery attempted to make a slave State of Illinois. This could be done only by amending the Constitution. Accordingly the legislature, which contained a majority of members who favored slavery, adopted a resolution submitting the question to a vote of the people at the next election. The passage of this measure was

considered a great victory for the friends of slavery, who indulged in many triumphal celebrations.

But the opponents of slavery did not lose heart. There were still eighteen months before the election, and each party put forth every effort to gain adherents. Such an exciting canvass had never before been witnessed. Every one became engaged in the party strife. Families were divided; neighborhoods surrendered to the bitter warfare; personal combats were frequent. Every newspaper of the new State was ranged upon one side or the other. Papers were established during the campaign to which the ablest writers of their respective parties contributed. Pamphlets were distributed containing statistics for or against slavery. The "friends of freedom" organized "anti-slavery societies." Governor Coles contributed his entire salary, $4,000, as a campaign fund. On election day each party turned out in full force. The lame, the halt, the blind, the aged, were assisted to the polls by their friends. When the votes were counted it was found that slavery had been defeated by 1,800 majority. This was the most exciting and important election ever held in early Illinois. Feeling in the matter speedily subsided. Six months after, it was difficult to find a politician who would admit that he favored the introduction of slavery into Illinois.

Outside the State, the contest over slavery raged fiercely. Slave-holders believed that discussion of the subject from the platform or in the newspaper should be prohibited. This was denying the right of free discussion and liberty of speech. These are two principles that have always been dear to the Saxon.

Rev. Elijah P. Lovejoy, a Presbyterian minister, was editing a religious paper in St. Louis. In the columns of the Observer, he fearlessly attacked the institution of slavery. A mob entered his office, broke his press to pieces, threw his type into the river, and compelled him to leave the city. Determined to remove to a free State, he went to Alton, purposing to re-establish his paper. Two other presses were destroyed by mobs, but his friends, now fully aroused, collected money with which to purchase a fourth press. The press arrived on the night of November 7, 1837, and was stored in the stone warehouse of Godfrey, Gilman & Co. The next night, news of its arrival having been circulated, a drunken mob, armed with guns, brickbats and stones, assembled and demanded the press.

Mr. Lovejoy and a few friends, who had also armed themselves, were gathered in the building. "It is my determination to defend my property," exclaimed Mr. Lovejoy.

"Shoot the Abolitionists! Tear down the house!" shouted the mob, and, suiting the action to the word, they began to break the windows and fire upon the building.

The men within returned the fire, killing one and wounding others of the mob. "Burn the building," shouted the drunken ruffians. Ladders were raised and a man quickly ran up and applied a torch to the roof.

Mr. Lovejoy, with a rifle in his hands, appeared and was shot down, pierced by five bullets. Thus died the first martyr to the cause of slavery in the State of Illinois.

Widespread excitement was caused by this tragic death. Papers came out in mourning. Public meetings were held in many places. Orators declared that Lovejoy had found

a grave in a free State; that the martyrdom of this representative of justice, liberty and free speech would kindle a flame, which years would fail to extinguish.

An institution known as the "underground railroad" existed in many of the Northern States. The engineers and conductors were people who believed slavery to be wrong. The road had its beginning on the banks of the Ohio River and its terminus in Canada. The passengers were escaped negroes who were conducted by night from one friendly family to another, where they were concealed during the day. Who the operators of this mysterious system were no one knew. But in nearly every community there lived some farmer or business man whose house was a refuge for thes unfortunate beings. Levi Coffin was the most prominent of all the men who were engaged in assisting runaway negroes to Canada. He was born in North Carolina, but early developed such a hatred for the institution of slavery that he determined to live in a free State, and removed to Indiana. It is said that he sheltered more than a hundred fugitives every year.

The slave-holders began to complain that they were being systematically robbed, and that they should be protected. Accordingly Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Law which made it a crime to assist a runaway slave. But instead of benefiting the slave-owner, the passage of this law raised a storm of opposition.

Thus the struggle against slavery continued. In Kansas civil war broke out. Preston S. Brookes, a member of Congress from South Carolina, became enraged at Charles Sumner, of Massachusetts, for offensive insinuations contained in a speech delivered against slavery. He attacked

Senator Sumner on the floor of the Senate chamber, and beat him into insensibility with a heavy cane.

While few people expected to see slavery abolished, there were some, both among Whigs and Democrats, who believed that it should not be permitted to spread to new States and Territories.

Dissatisfied members from all parties united to form the Republican party, which was pledged to prevent the spread of slavery.

Abraham Lincoln had become noted because of a series of debates which he had held with Senator Stephen A. Douglas upon the political questions of the day. In an address before the people of Springfield, he used these words: "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this Government cannot endure half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union will be dissolved, but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."

The election of Abraham Lincoln, the candidate of the Republican party in 1860, was followed by the great Civil War.

CHAPTER XVII.

OUR STATE CAPITALS.

When the Territory of Illinois was separated from Indiana by Congress in 1809, Kaskaskia, the most important commercial center of the region, was chosen as the seat of government.

The Territorial legislature held its sessions in a large rough building of uncut limestone, located in the center of the square. This venerable structure had been the headquarters of the military commander during the time of French occupancy. The lower floor of the cheerless structure was fitted up for the use of the House. The members of the council occupied a small chamber above where they performed their labors, gathered about a circular table. The village of Kaskaskia continued to flourish as the capital of the Territory. It was the chief town of the region. Easily accessible to steamboats and post-roads, the large commercial firms had here their headquarters. It became the home of many statesmen and public men.

FIRST CAPITOL.

But when the members of the convention gathered to frame the first State Constitution, they provided in this instrument that "the seat of government should remain at Kaskaskia until the General Assembly should otherwise direct." They also provided that this body should "petition Congress for a grant to the State of four sections of land for the seat of government," and if the prayer was granted that a town should be laid out thereon, which should remain the capital of the State for twenty years.

The land was to be situated upon the Kaskaskia River, and east of the Third Principal Meridian. The only reason for a change of location at this time was "a mania for speculation" and the hope that fortunes might be made by building a new town.

Carlyle, which had been laid out on the Kaskaskia River by two gentlemen from Virginia, was competing for the honor of location with a site higher up the river known as "Pope's Bluff." While the contest was raging, a hunter, named Reeves, appeared before the convention and declared that "Pope's Bluff and Carlyle wasn't a primin' to his bluff." His cabin was located still higher up the river at a point where the Third Meridian crossed the stream. The location was indeed beautiful. Under the shade of the gigantic trees, "former lords of the forest might have held grave council." The site was so commanding that the commissioners fixed upon the hunter's home as the location for the future capital.

Tradition relates that a wag who was present suggested to the commissioners that, since the Vandals were a powerful tribe of Indians, who formerly occupied this region, the name Vandalia would preserve the name of the extinct

THE STATE HOUSE AT VANDALIA, ILLINOIS.

Three different State houses were built at Vandalia. The first, a two-story frame building, was burned December 9, 1823. The second, a brick structure erected at a cost of $12,381.50, was torn down in 1836 to make place for the present building, which the people of Vandalia erected to prevent the removal of the capital to Springfield. The State refunded to Vandalia the $16,000 which the building cost. The brick columns of the building were replaced by iron pillars Sept. 18, 1899.

race and also make an excellent name for the new capital. Accordingly the town site was called Vandalia.

A temporary State House of two stories was speedily erected upon a foundation of rough stone. Two men were paid $25 to transfer the State records to the new capital. In December, 1820, they shouldered their axes and cut a road through the forest for the small wagon containing the valuable freight.

A little village sprang up, and when the new State House was burned in 1823 the citizens speedily raised $3,000 with which to assist in erecting a new building.

In the center of the square, a commodious brick structure was erected, which answered well the needs of our early legislators.

This building, in 1836, gave place to a more beautiful structure, which still adorns the city of Vandalia, and is used for the Court House for Fayette County.

Immigration was pouring into the rich farming lands in the central and northern portions of the new State. Long before the limit of twenty years had expired, agitation began for the removal of the capital from Vandalia, which had grown to be a beautiful little city.

In that early day before the introduction of railroads, when all travel was by stage or by horseback, the location of the capital at a more central point was of greater importance than it would be at the present time.

After much discussion the legislature passed an act requiring that the two houses meet on the 28th of February, 1837, at 10 o'clock, to select a suitable place for the permanent location of the seat of government, after the expiration of the Constitutional term at Vandalia.

Twenty-nine towns were rivals for the honor. The six whose chances seemed good were Illiopolis, Peoria, Jacksonville, Alton, Vandalia and Springfield. On the fourth ballot seventy-three votes made Springfield the choice of the convention. The success of Springfield was due largely to the able delegation, consisting of two senators and seven

THIRD CAPITOL BUILDING, SPRINGFIELD.

representatives sent to the legislature from Sangamon county. The delegation was known as the "long nine," because the combined height of its members was fifty-four feet. Abraham Lincoln and Ninian Edwards were members of this famous delegation. These men, able, persistent and talented, went to Vandalia with the express determination of obtaining the location of the capital at Springfield. With this end in view they pulled together and voted as a unit on every question.

At this time almost every section of the State desired appropriations to improve rivers, construct railroads and lay out canals or public roads. "The long nine" took advantage of the situation. All axes could be sharpened upon their grindstone if in return delegates would vote for the removal of the capital to Springfield. The "log rolling" of the "long nine" continued throughout the winter, and resulted in final victory.

At this time Springfield was an ambitious village of 1,500 people, second in population only to Jacksonville. Its frame houses were poorly constructed; sidewalks were lacking, and the streets were often rendered impassable by the deep mud.

President Lincoln enjoyed telling this story of the town of which he was so fond:

Thompson Campbell, Secretary of State, one day received an application from a meek looking man, with a white necktie, for the use of the assembly chamber to deliver a course of lectures.

"May I ask," said the Secretary, "what is to be the subject of your lectures?"

"Certainly," was the reply, with a very solemn expres-

sion of countenance, "it is on the second coming of our Lord."

"It is no use," said Campbell, "if you will take my advice you will not waste your time in this city. It is my private opinion that if the Lord had been in Springfield once, he would not come the second time."

The corner-stone of the new State House, which was to be built in the center of the village, was laid with much ceremony July 4, 1837. The building, which cost $200,000, was greatly admired for its beauty, and was considered large enough to meet the needs of the State for many years.

The advancement and prosperity of a State may be read in its public buildings. Before twenty-five years had passed, our State had outgrown its third capitol building, which is now the Court House for Sangamon County. Again did rival towns, especially Peoria and Decatur, bid for the tempting prize. Finally the citizens of Springfield donated "the Mather lot," a beautiful tract of seven acres, to which four acres more have been added. Upon this the State has reared a pile of architecture so rich and ornate in design, so ample in proportion, and so costly in structure, that the question of capital removal will probably never again be discussed.

The corner-stone was laid in October, 1868, and the entire structure was completed at a cost of $4,260,000.

The opening of vast coal fields, the centering of railroads in the city, the establishing of manufactures, the energy and thrift of her citizens, has caused Springfield to grow from an inconsiderable village to an attractive and beautiful city, a fit home for our capitol, a fit capital for our State.

THE CAPITOL, SPRINGFIELD.

CHAPTER XVIII.

NAUVOO AND THE MORMONS.

In the little village of Sharon, Vermont, was born on December 23, 1805, a child named Joseph Smith, who was destined to wield a wide influence and establish an additional religious sect. When Joseph was but a lad his father removed to Palmyra, New York.

At about the age of fifteen young Joseph Smith attended one of the great revival meetings which were being held in the State and was deeply affected. He relates that retiring to a wood for prayer and meditation he beheld a wonderful vision. Two persons appeared to him in a pillar of light. One of these heavenly visitors commanded him to unite with no established church. He further states that he was again visited by an angel, who revealed to him the location of certain gold plates hidden in the earth, that contained a record of the former inhabitants of America. In a few years these were obtained and translated by him and published as "The Book of Mormon."

About this time there appeared an itinerant preacher named Sidney Rigdon, who had one time worked in a printing office in Pittsburg. To this office one Solomon Spaulding had sent a writing styled "The Manuscript Found,"* a romance of the origin of the North American Indians. Certain people claim that this manuscript obtained by Sidney Rigdon is the basis of "The Book of Mormon." A com-

*This manuscript is in the possession of The Oberlin (Ohio) College Library.

parison of the two books, however, necessitates an abandonment of this theory. There is no common incident or name, in fact, no resemblance whatever between "The Manuscript Found" and "The Book of Mormon." The Mormons, moreover, claim that Joseph Smith made this translation several years before he became acquainted with Sidney Rigdon, who joined the sect November 14, 1830.

The "Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints" was organized at Fayette, New York, on April 6, 1830. The little band, at this time numbering but six members, chose Joseph Smith to be the presiding officer.

The church grew rapidly and in 1836 dedicated its first temple at Kirtland, Ohio. This structure still stands and in many particulars is a remarkable monument of Mormon industry and zeal.

Through a revelation it was declared that Independence, Mo., was to be the future "City of Zion." To this religion many of the faithful gathered. But there was much strife between them and the people of Missouri concerning religion and the question of slavery, for the Mormons did not hold slaves. The newly organized county of Caldwell was given them for their exclusive use. Here they gathered in great numbers and established the city of "Far West." To this place Joseph Smith and other leading Mormons from Kirtland, Ohio, came in the year 1838. But the persecutions did not cease and in the winter of 1838-39 they were driven from the State and sought shelter in Illinois, purchasing a large body of land in Hancock County. In the midst of this tract, upon the banks of the Mississippi, they established Nauvoo, "the Holy City of the Saints."

A special charter was secured for this new city and John C. Bennett was elected mayor. Each of the two great

political parties—the Whigs and the Democrats—desired to secure the support of the Mormons.

Thus it happened that when Dr. Bennett went to Springfield to secure a charter for the new city he was aided by the politicians of both parties. The State Legislature granted them a charter which contained liberal and extensive powers.

A Nauvoo Legion was established which, in addition to the regular powers of the Militia of the State, was to be "at the disposal of the Mayor in executing the laws and ordinances of the City Corporation."

The Governor of Missouri made a demand upon Governor Carlin of Illinois for Joseph Smith, who had fled from the State while under arrest. A warrant was issued for him and he was brought before Judge Douglas, who found the warrant defective and released the prisoner. Because of constant persecutions and fearful that their leader might be taken from them, it is said the Mormon Council enacted a law "That no writ issued at any other place except Nauvoo for the arrest of any person in the city should be executed without approval endorsed thereon by the mayor." The result of this law was soon apparent. Any man who committed a crime would now endeavor to hide in the city of Nauvoo, and it is certain that the Mormons were blamed for many crimes committed by others.

The Mormons now became unpopular everywhere. After the release of Smith by Judge Douglas his followers had returned to the Democratic party.

The Whigs, realizing that they were lost to their party, began to attack them through the columns of their papers. The Legion had been furnished by the State with 250

stands of arms and three pieces of cannon. These the papers magnified into many thousands of muskets and cannon.

The people, now inflamed, prepared to make war upon the Mormons, and the Governor called out the troops. Before his arrival upon the scene, the entire militia of McDonough and Schuyler Counties had assembled at Carthage and Warsaw. The Governor, fearful that the Mormon leaders would be sacrificed to the fury of the people, obtained from the officers a promise that they would keep within the limit of the law in the discharge of their duties.

Knowing that warrants had been issued, Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum went to Carthage and gave themselves up to the sheriff. But on June 27, 1844, they were assassinated at the hands of a mob.

In summing up the character of Joseph Smith one writer states:

"But whether knave or lunatic, whether a liar or a true man, it cannot be denied that he was one of the most extraordinary persons of his time, a man of rude genius, who accomplished a much greater work than he knew; and whose name, whatever he may have been whilst living, will take its place among the notabilities of the world." *

As organized, the church consisted of three presidents and twelve apostles, who were abroad preaching Mormonism. Two of the presidents—Joseph and Hyrum Smith—were dead. The third, Sidney Rigdon, proposed to seize the power, but becoming unpopular a fierce dispute arose between him and the twelve apostles who had returned at the news of their leaders' death.

*Smucker's History of Mormons, page 183.

The apostles with Brigham Young at their head gained control and sent missionaries everywhere preaching Mormonism and the martyred Joseph Smith. Many flocked into the church and the sect grew rapidly. At the death of the Prophet the church numbered about two hundred thousand, "a number equal, perhaps, to the number of Christians when the Christian church was of the same age."*

Meanwhile the State had revoked the charter of Nauvoo and the Saints prepared for the journey to the promised land, where they hoped to live undisturbed.

In the spring of 1846 the great company began to depart, and after enduring many hardships arrived upon the shores of Salt Lake. Of this region their industry soon made a garden. Here were laid the foundations of a mammoth Temple, which has been completed after many years of labor and the expenditure of great treasure.

The city of Salt Lake grew up around it, and with passing years the church of the "Latter Day Saints" has grown in wealth and in the number of its people.

But many Mormons refused to follow Brigham Young to Utah, nor would they accept the doctrine of polygamy announced by him in 1852. These people, many of whom lived in Illinois, Missouri and Iowa, began a movement to reorganize the church. This was finally accomplished and in 1860 Joseph Smith, a son of the founder, was chosen to be the presiding officer.

This branch of the Mormon church, the "Re-organized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints," has its headquarters at Lamoni, Iowa. Its members are a quiet, law-abiding people.

*Ford, History of Illinois, page 359.

CHAPTER XIX.

TRANSPORTATION.

When Illinois became a State, in 1818, the only means of transportation available was the pack horse or mule and the heavy ox-wagon over the roadless prairies; the canoe, flat-boat and keel-boat on the rivers which crossed the State or formed a part of its boundary lines.

Immediately after its admission into the Union, immigration into Illinois increased astonishingly. Emigrants not only from the older States but also from foreign countries rushed within its borders, and, spreading over its northern prairies, reached the banks of the Mississippi or the wooded bottoms of the Illinois, the Okaw and the Sangamon.

Farms by hundreds sprang up; at first, the portions chosen for settlement were the wooded and watered sections, and here the woodman's ax made the clearing necessary for the farm. On this account the work of preparing land for cultivation was slow. Soon, however, settlers realized the value of the rich open prairie lands for farming purposes, and by the tens of thousands the acres were put under the breaking plow, and the tall wild prairie grass gave way to growing corn and waving wheat fields. Thousands of farms came into cultivation, and towns and villages innumerable were laid out and carefully surveyed. Lots in blocks and lots single were put at auction everywhere, until at last "the principal product of Illinois is town lots" became a common saying.

With so many towns, cities and villages coming into being, with the rapid development of farming industry, the problem of transportation naturally presented itself. How were the fast increasing crops to reach the markets, and how were the settlers to transport from the East and South the many things required in their new homes?

The first attempt to solve this all-important problem was made in 1836, when Illinois was eighteen years old. In that year a bill, recommended by Governor Duncan, was introduced into its legislature providing for a "system of internal improvements." This bill became a law on February 27, 1837.

It provided for the issue of over ten million dollars' worth of bonds to be used for the improvement of navigation on the Illinois, Wabash, Rock and Kaskaskia Rivers, and also for building several railroads, among which were lines from Cairo to Galena, Alton to Mt. Carmel, Peoria to Warsaw, Alton to the Central railroad,—another name for the Cairo and Galena line.

The first railroad, "the Great Northern Cross," was begun May 9, 1838, at Meredosia. Eight miles of track were completed, and the people, anxious to see the cars run, had a locomotive shipped by water from Pittsburgh. All the horses and oxen of the community were required to haul the huge machine up the river bank. This engine, the first ever seen in the Mississippi Valley, made its first run November 8th, 1838, with Engineer Joseph Field in charge and Governor Duncan and a party of his friends as passengers. This was only ten years after the building of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the first one in the United States.

The railroad building under State supervision and the brilliant scheme of improvement so full of promise on the start, was doomed to failure. Due to dishonesty of contractors, to lack of business experience and to the greed of many, the proposed work under State supervision had to be stopped. The blunder of embarking upon an undertaking without the necessary knowledge to conduct it successfully, was followed by a still greater blunder, that of disposing of what transportation property the State owned with such haste that hardly anything was realized. This can be given as one instance: The Meredosia Railroad completed to Springfield at an actual expense of one million dollars, was sold at auction to Mr. Nicholas H. Ridgely, of Springfield, for $21,100.

Railroads, nevertheless, were indispensable for the successful development of the State, and what had not been accomplished by the State itself was to be carried successfully through by private enterprise or by private enterprise with State aid.

On September 20, 1850, Congress passed an act granting the right-of-way, and making a grant of land to the states of Illinois, Alabama and Mississippi, in aid of the construction of a railroad from Chicago to Mobile. This grant gave to the state of Illinois the alternate sections of land, for six sections in width, and designated by the even numbers, on each side of the road and its branches required to be built in the state.

The grant was "for the purpose of aiding in making the railroad and its branches aforesaid" and upon the condition that such lands, including the right-of-way, "shall be applied in the construction of said railroad and its branches and shall be applied to no other purpose whatsoever." This

grant, by Congress to the state, was in trust for the specific purpose of building that railroad.

At the time this act was passed the state was, and had been for years, in default of interest due upon its bonds. The state constitution then in force forbade the use of state money or credit in aid of the building of railroads. The only thing that could be done was what the state did do: charter a company (Illinois Central Railroad Company), which assumed all the obligations contained in the act of 1850, and the further obligation to pay to the state annually, in lieu of taxes, seven per cent of the gross earnings.

The grant of right-of-way of 1850 was, of course, only for such land as the general government still owned at the time. The company had to buy, and did buy a good deal of other land, some of which for those days was high priced. In Chicago, a portion of the Fort Dearborn Reservation, and other land, was sold to the railroad through a subsequent act of Congress.

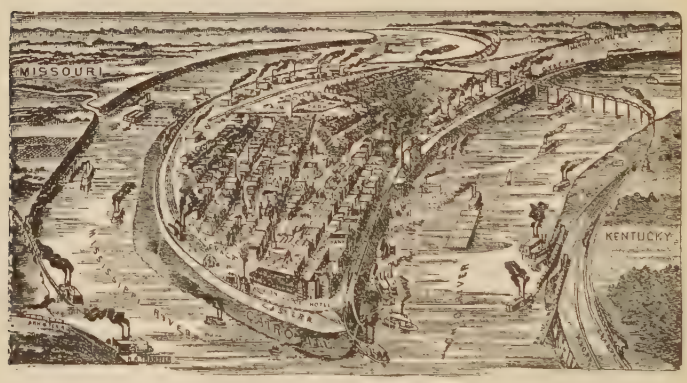
The building of the Illinois Central made the immediate settlement of the state possible. Towns sprung up along the lines of railroad, and from these there radiated settlements in all directions. Not only did the building of the road bring the settler, but it also brought a market for the products of his labor.

The Illinois Central for the year ended October 31st, 1906, paid the state $1,192,425.01, and the total amount paid to October 31st, 1906, aggregated $25,008,187.71.

The amounts paid are increasing from year to year as the business of the road increases. This steady stream of cash into the state treasury has done much to keep the state free from debt, strengthen its credit and lighten its taxes.

The lines of the Illinois Central now extend south from Chicago to St. Louis, Louisville, Nashville, Memphis and New Orleans, and west to Omaha, Sioux City and Sioux Falls.

While the Illinois Central was pushing the construction of its tracks to reach the southern end, the Ohio and Mis-



BIRDSEYE VIEW CAIRO, ILL.

sissippi was opening one of the most important trunk lines in the State reaching from Cincinnati, in Ohio, to St. Louis on the Mississippi River, and crossing the State of Illinois east and west about 125 miles north of Cairo. This, the extreme southern city of our State, is built on a "delta" formed by the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. It was named Cairo after the ancient Egyptian city, built on the delta of the Nile, and, on that account, the section of the State bounded on the east and west by the two rivers which meet at Cairo, and on the north by the Ohio and Mississippi Railway, was naturally nick-named Egypt.

The city of Cairo is full of interest on account of its topography. At Cairo one of the most important military

posts was established, during the Civil War in the sixties. Here it was that General Grant began his noted career as a successful commander, and from her wharves were embarked the gallant troops which reduced Forts Donelson and Henry. The Illinois Central Railroad has spent much money on its approaches to the Illinois Egyptian city, and across the Ohio it has built one of the most massive bridges to be found on the continent. Once nothing but a marsh and a bog, the land on which the city now stands has been made safe only after millions of expense in filling and in mural protection against the periodical overflow of the two mighty rivers which almost encircle her.

One by one railroads have been built, until Chicago and Peoria have become railroad centers and terminals second to none. Almost every town or city within the borders of the State has been connected by rail, and Illinois to-day has more miles of operated railroads than any other State in the Union.

The Chicago and Northwestern, the Chicago and Alton, the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, the Baltimore and Ohio, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé, the Vandalia line, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, the Ohio, Bloomington and Western, the Chicago and Eastern Illinois, the Jacksonville and Southeastern, the Wabash, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, the Cairo Short Line, the Mobile and Ohio, the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and St. Louis,—these are some of the prominent railroads which, with more than forty others, have laid their tracks within the borders of the State, and, with their telegraphic lines, have made a perfect network over its varied and fertile surface.

With the use of electricity as a motive power, Illinois has not been outstripped by any of its sister States. From East St. Louis east, from Chicago in every direction, out of and about every one of its large cities, the electric railroads have their trollies stretched, and cars, lighted and heated and moved by that mysterious agent, are everywhere seen hurrying and carrying the busy to and from their daily tasks.

Only sixty-three years since the State was without a railroad! Only sixty-two years since the first engine was seen, by the wondering settlers, on the banks of the Illinois. Only fifty years since the State made its grant to the Illinois Central Company.

In these fifty years the enterprise of its citizens has made it possible for them to reach any portion of the great State with greater ease and comfort and in less time than in 1835 they could travel a score of miles.

From Chicago, Cairo,—365 miles away,—is reached in less than eight hours and a half. In 1835 it would have taken double that number of days. St. Louis is reached in less than eight hours from Chicago. In 1835 the trader made the trip in nineteen days! The ox-cart is gone, the pack-mule is no longer seen, and even the horse is fast being superseded by steam and electricity in the rushing, growing life of the State. Wonderful, indeed, is the transition from ox-cart to trolley.

CANALS.

So far we have dealt with overland transportation; but no less important and, according to some, far more im-

portant, on account of its cheapness, is the transportation which waterways afford.

The States of Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland had built numerous canals. It was, therefore, perfectly natural that the early settlers of Illinois should also think of constructing them. Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury, directed the attention of Congress to the importance of building a canal to connect the waters of the Illinois River with Lake Michigan.

Others took up the project, and finally a Congressional Act was passed authorizing "the State of Illinois to open a canal through the land to connect the Illinois River with Lake Michigan." The land for ninety feet on either side was granted to the State.

Four commissioners were appointed, who employed civil engineers to compute the probable cost of construction. Their estimate was $700,000.00, and the State proceeded with the work until $1,500,000.00 had been spent with little progress. Work was suspended until the Illinois members in Congress succeeded in having passed by that body an act granting to Illinois "for the purpose of aiding her" to complete the work, the alternate sections of public land for five miles on each side of the canal, along its entire route, amounting to 2,243,323 acres. A large force of men was employed, Chicago and Ottawa were laid out, and, at the end of twelve years, the work was completed. The canal was sixty feet wide at the ground level, thirty-six feet at the bottom, and six feet in depth. Five feeders furnished the water supply, twenty-five bridges spanned it, seventeen locks were used in lifting and lowering boats,

and a steamboat harbor was built where the canal joins the Illinois River.

On April 16, 1848, the canal boat General Thornton, gaily decked, made the first journey, of one hundred miles, on the waters of the completed Illinois and Michigan Canal, the citizens of La Salle and other towns along its route, as well as those of Chicago, celebrating the event.

In 1865, Chicago enlarged and deepened the channel, so that it might assist in clearing the Chicago River of accumulated filth. The large expenditure for this purpose was to be repaid from the future earnings of the waterway. But when the city was laid waste by the dreadful fire of 1871, the State promptly placed the entire sum expended in the treasury of the stricken city. Since its completion, in 1848, until 1887, the canal earned enough to pay for the expense of building it, and $2,000,000.00 besides.

In 1882 the canal was, by legislative action, made a national waterway and placed under control of the United States Government. Extensive improvements on the Illinois River for the promotion and development of commerce, an admirable passenger and freight steamboat service on the lakes, as well as on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, all combine in giving to Illinois excellent water transportation facilities.

CHAPTER XX.

ILLINOIS IN THE MEXICAN WAR.

When, in 1845, war was declared upon Mexico, and President Polk called for volunteers, the men of Illinois responded with enthusiasm. Everywhere strains of martial music and the oratory of public speakers rallied the people to the defense of the flag. While the quota from Illinois was only "three regiments," six were furnished, and many companies were refused. Colonel John J. Hardin commanded the first regiment, and Colonel William H. Bissell the second. These regiments assembled at Alton, and hastening southward joined the troops of General Taylor in August, 1846. The war was on in earnest. General Taylor's troops had already won the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, fighting so bravely that a Mexican poet wrote these lines regarding them:

"Dark is Palo Alto's story;
Sad Resaca Palma's route;
On those fatal fields, so gory,
Many a gallant life went out.
* * * * * *
On they came, those Northern horsemen,
On, like eagles toward the sun;
Followed then the Northern bayonet,
And the field was lost and won."

The Illinois troops, with those from other States, forming an army 4,500 strong, marched to Monterey and thence,

after a long delay, to Buena Vista (beautiful view), where they were confronted by an army of 20,000 men, commanded by General Santa Anna.

This army comprised the flower of the Mexican regulars and volunteers. Santa Anna was confident of victory. On the morning of February 22,—Washington's birthday,—he sent an officer to General Taylor with this message: "You are surrounded by 20,000 men, and cannot avoid being shot to pieces. I give you this notice, that you may surrender at discretion." "I beg leave to say that I decline to accept your invitation," replied General Taylor.

Where the valley was most narrow, with lofty mountains on each side, General Taylor formed his line of battle. The plain beyond had been cut into deep ravines by the mountain torrents. Captain Bragg's battery and the Kentucky volunteers were posted west of the little stream at the left of the plain. Washington's battery of eight guns, and the First Indiana volunteers, were stationed at Angostura. The First Illinois, under Colonel Hardin, and a Texas company occupied the remainder of the line, which was thus completed to the high ground of the plateau. Beyond them, extending toward the mountains, were placed the First Dragoons, the Second Illinois, the Second Indiana and the Arkansas regiments.

Up the valley came General Santa Anna with his 20,000 troops, expecting to sweep the Northern invaders before him.

Seeing the disposition of the American troops, he sent General Ampudia with his division to climb the mountain side and fall upon the left flank of the little army. At three o'clock the battle began, and continued on the left until the

going down of the sun. The Illinois men had never been under fire. As the balls began to come thick and fast the soldiers involuntarily ducked their heads.

"Steady boys. Don't duck your heads," shouted Colonel Bissell from the saddle.

At that moment, with a roar, a cannon ball passed so near to the Colonel that involuntarily he stooped to avoid it.

"You may duck for the big ones, boys," Colonel Bissell laughingly exclaimed.

At dawn Santa Anna advanced his troops in three columns. All day the battle raged. The Mexicans on the left overpowered brave Lieutenant O'Brien, and compelled him to withdraw his battery. For some unaccountable reason the Indiana troops retreated in disorder.

The brave Illinois troops stood almost unsupported, fighting with Mexicans in front of them, upon their right, and a great cloud enfolding them upon the left. Their rifles flashed forth sheets of flame. The valiant Colonel Bissell saw that they must fall back, and gave the command:

"About face, to the rear! March!"

As though upon the parade ground the troops moved at the command of their officer, in whom all had confidence. Still back toward the Narrows our men were pressed, until now General Taylor, who had hastened from Buena Vista, took command. The batteries of Bragg and Sherman thundered forward, and began to pour grape and canister into the masses of the Mexicans. Again the cannons blazed forth, and the line at that point began to waver.

Upon the left Ampudia was put to flight by Colonel Jefferson Davis and his brave Mississippians. The Illinois troops, supported by the Kentuckians, started in pursuit. This was most disastrous to our brave men, for as they dashed into one of the deep ravines, the Mexicans, reinforced by 12,000 men, returned to the conflict, and gathering upon the edge, proceeded to shoot down the Americans like sheep. The only door of escape, the mouth of the ravine, was being closed by the enemy's cavalry when the welcome sound of Washington's battery was heard, and in a moment the well-directed shot of our batteries began to explode in the midst of the cavalry. Panting and breathless, those of our men who were left emerged from the slaughter pen and were reformed by Colonel Bissell.

The supreme moment of the battle had arrived. Cut down by our shot and shell, their lines broken by the unerring fire of our riflemen, the Mexicans streamed back over the plain, pursued under the shadow of the mountains, and the battle was over.

That night the Mexican army fled southward, leaving its wounded upon the field. The Mexican nuns ministered to Americans and Mexicans alike. It was the conduct of these noble women that inspired the poet Whittier to write a beautiful poem, "The Angels of Buena Vista."

"'Speak and tell us, our Ximena, looking northward far away,
O'er the camp of the invaders, o'er the Mexican array,
Who is losing? Who is winning? Are they far or come they near?
Look abroad and tell us, sister: Whither rolls the storm we hear?'

"'Down the hills of Angostura, still the storm of battle rolls;
Blood is flowing. Men are dying,—God have mercy on their souls.
'Who is losing? Who is winning?' Over hills and over plain
I can see but smoke of cannon clouding through the mountain rain.'

"Nearer came the storm, and nearer, rolling fast and frightful on,
'Speak Ximena—speak, and tell us who has lost and who has won?'
'Alas! Alas! I know not: Friend and foe together fall;
O'er the dying rush the living. Pray my sisters, for them all!'"

The battle of Buena Vista, so fierce and so stubborn, was a turning point in the war. Upon this battlefield were buried the bodies of many Illinois boys. The noble Colonel Hardin fell in the ravine of death. His body was brought home by his men and buried at Jacksonville.

General Taylor refers to the services of the Illinois troops as follows: "The First and Second Illinois and the Kentucky regiments served immediately under my eye, and I bear a willing testimony to their excellent conduct throughout the day. The spirit and gallantry with which the First Illinois and Second Kentucky engaged the enemy in the morning restored the confidence to that part of the field, while the list of casualties will show how much these three regiments suffered in sustaining the heavy charge of the enemy in the afternoon. In the last engagement we had the misfortune to sustain a very heavy loss. Colonels Hardin, McKee and Lieutenant Colonel Clay fell at this

time while gallantly leading their commands. Colonel Bissell, the only surviving colonel of these three regiments, merits notice for his coolness and bravery on this occasion."

The Third and Fourth Illinois regiments, under the command of Colonels Foreman and Baker, were joined to the troops of General Scott. They took part in the storming of Vera Cruz, and after the fall of the place they advanced with the army against the City of Mexico. In the battle of Cerro Gordo, the Illinois troops greatly distinguished themselves, charging upon the enemy's line again and again.

The other Illinois troops did not reach the fields of battle, but the Fifth Illinois infantry, under Colonel Newby, was first ordered to Fort Leavenworth, and endured the hardships incident to a wearisome march across the arid plains to Santa Fé.

With the surrender of the City of Mexico the war closed, and the treaty of Guadaloupe Hidalgo was signed. The result of this war was to establish the southern and western line of Texas, and to give to the United States a vast region, from which have been formed California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming and Utah, an area of country greater in extent than the original thirteen States.

CHAPTER XXI.

LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS.

Early in the spring of 1830, a large covered wagon drawn by four yoke of oxen, was driven through the woods of Indiana by a tall, strong young man, who carried a long whip with which to guide his ox teams.

This young man was Abraham Lincoln, who had removed with his father's family from Kentucky, when but a lad of eight, and had grown up among the hills and woods of Southern Indiana. And now, at the age of twenty-one, he was setting out with his father's family to help them establish a new home in Illinois. The wagon contained all the possessions of the Lincoln family. The journey through the muddy forest roads and across swollen streams was hard and long. None of the kind frontiersmen with whom they stopped imagined that the rough, ungainly young man who drove the oxen would some day become the first citizen of Illinois and the greatest man of his time.

At the end of fifteen days the little company reached the Sangamon River, ten miles south of Decatur, where a farm was chosen and a log cabin built.

Abraham Lincoln was now his own master, but he remained at home until his father was well settled. He and his cousin, John Hanks, built a barn, cleared and plowed fifteen acres of land, which they fenced with rails split from the tall timber that grew on every side.

Young Lincoln needed new clothes, but no member of the family had any money. A few miles from the Lincoln cabin lived Mrs. Miller, a thrifty woman, who owned a flock of sheep, and from their wool wove strong, home-spun cloth, called "jeans." Lincoln bargained with this woman for a pair of trousers, promising to make four hundred rails for every yard of cloth used in the garment. The clothing was furnished, and in payment for them the young man split fourteen hundred rails.

As he was no longer needed at home, Lincoln and his cousin John started out to shift for themselves.

They engaged with a man named Offutt of Beardstown to take a flat-boat and cargo to New Orleans.

With the opening of spring they repaired to Springfield. only to learn that although the cargo was ready, no boat could be obtained. Lincoln at once proposed to Mr. Offutt that John Hanks and himself would build a flat-boat if he would pay them twelve dollars per month. The offer was accepted, and the two men went to old Sangamon, seven miles northwest of Springfield. Here upon the bank of the river they felled trees, hewed them into shape, and in due time carried Mr. Offutt's cargo in safety to New Orleans.

While at Old Sangamon Lincoln captured the entire village with his entertaining stories and quaint jokes. It required only four weeks to build the boat, but in that short time the awkward, good-natured young man made friends who remembered him through life. A man named Roll, who helped young Lincoln upon the flat-boat, relates that in appearance "he was a tall, gaunt young man, dressed in a suit of home-spun jeans, consisting of a roundabout

jacket, waist coat and breeches, which came to within about four inches of his feet and were generally stuffed into the tops of his rawhide boots. He wore a soft felt hat, which had at one time been black, but now, as its owner dryly remarked, "it had been sunburned until it was a combine of colors."

Near the village was a whittling log, where the "men folks" were in the habit of meeting at noon and after work was finished. The log had been peeled of its bark, and upon it the men sat and whittled as they talked, just as our grandmothers used to chat over their knitting.

Mr. Roll tells us, "So irresistibly droll were Lincoln's yarns that whenever he'd end up in an unexpected way, the boys on the log would whoop and roll off." During this month of story telling the log became polished by frequent use, and thereafter, until it crumbled to decay, was known as "Abe's log." The inhabitants of the little village watched with regret the departure of the interesting story teller.

A few miles below old Sangamon was the little village of New Salem, where a mill had been erected and a dam built across the river. Upon this dam Lincoln's flat-boat stuck and hung with its bow high in the air. The people lined the bank, and in a good-natured way shouted suggestions to the men in the boat, but they soon discovered that their advice was unnecessary. Lincoln unloaded a portion of the cargo, bored a hole in the bottom of the boat to let out the water, tilted up the stern, and to the astonishment of the crowd the craft slid over the top of the dam and floated in the deep water below. The cargo was reloaded, and Lincoln and his companion continued their journey.

Mr. Offutt was so pleased with the result of the New Orleans trip that he offered young Lincoln a position in a store he was planning to open at New Salem. When the young man arrived months after to take his place the people still remembered the strapping fellow who was "such a master boatman."

Lincoln employed his leisure time at the store in reading

LINCOLN MONUMENT, SPRINGFIELD.

and study. He wished to know something of English grammar, and learning that a book on the subject was owned by a man who lived eight miles away, he walked the distance and borrowed the volume. With the assistance of the village lawyer he mastered the contents of the book and greatly improved his language.

When he wished to speak on any subject it was his habit to go off alone and put his thoughts into clear, simple words. This habit of careful thinking and speaking proved of great value to Lincoln in after life.

In the vicinity of New Salem lived a number of wild, reckless young men, who were in the habit of challenging any new comer to wrestle or fight. They went by the name of the "Cleary Grove Boys," and resolved to test Lincoln's strength, of which Mr. Offutt had frequently boasted. The strongest of them, Jack Armstrong, challenged the young man to wrestle, and as he could not well refuse, he consented to the match. Jack's friends soon discovered that their champion was no match for Lincoln, and pressing close they attempted to lend assistance by sly kicks and blows. This angered the young man, and seizing Armstrong by the throat, he choked him until he was black in the face. Seeing that Lincoln was fully aroused and possessed of the strength of a giant, they avoided provoking him further. This evidence of his pluck and strength had the effect of causing these rough young men to become his ardent admirers.

At another time, when some women were trading in the store, a rough bully came in and began to use profane language. Lincoln ordered him to leave, and was at once challenged to fight. As soon as his customers had been waited upon, he followed the ruffian into the street, threw him down, and rubbed smartweed into his eyes until the cowardly fellow begged for mercy.

Lincoln's reputation for good nature, strength and courage was now well established. He had no further trouble

with the young men, and often acted as peacemaker between them.

By his honesty and integrity he won the confidence of every one. In making change for a customer, a woman who lived several miles from the little village, the young man took a "flip"—six and one-quarter cents—more than was due the store. Upon discovering his mistake he walked the entire distance to her home to return the money.

At another time he used the wrong weight in measuring tea for a woman. After she had gone he found that she should have received two ounces more. That night after the store had been closed and the shutters put up he carried the tea to the woman.

In 1832 the Black Hawk war broke out, and Lincoln, with many other young men, volunteered to fight against the Indians. When the company in which he had enlisted was called upon to choose a captain, three-fourths of the men walked over to Lincoln, thus designating him as their choice.

At the close of the war Lincoln was in Southern Wisconsin, and in company with a friend started to walk back to Illinois. At Peoria they secured a skiff, and in it continued their homeward journey. Reaching Havana the young men walked across the country to their home at New Salem.

Lincoln soon purchased a grocery store, but having as a partner a reckless young man, the store accumulated many bad debts, and before very long "winked out." He was many years in paying the debts contracted by this unfortunate venture, but in the end canceled all the obligations contracted by himself and his partner.

Next he became postmaster, and having little to do, distributed the mail from house to house, carrying the letters in the crown of his hat.

He was appointed deputy county surveyor, but never having studied the science of surveying, he applied himself to the subject, and with the aid of the village schoolmaster, obtained a fair knowledge of the work. The people of Petersburg are proud of the fact that Abraham Lincoln laid out their town.

LINCOLN'S HOME IN SPRINGFIELD.

By his strict honesty, amusing stories and charming good nature, he constantly widened the circle of his acquaintances and won favor with the people. When a man was to be chosen to represent them in the Legislature they naturally thought of Abraham Lincoln.

He was duly elected, but being too poor to pay his stage hire, he walked the entire distance, nearly one hundred

miles, to take his seat in the State Legislature at Vandalia.

When Lincoln was in the store at New Salem he had taken up the study of law, and now he devoted himself to the work so earnestly that in 1837 he was ready to settle at Springfield and begin the practice of law. All these years he had been winning the affection and confidence of the people. When it was known that he had become a lawyer his services were much sought after.

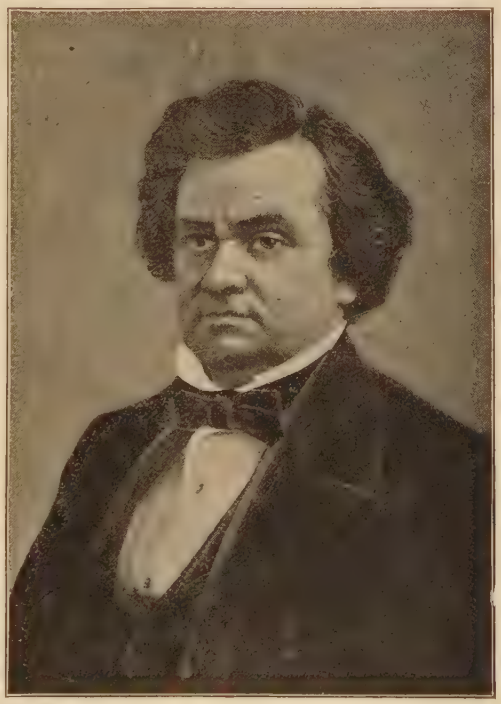
In those days lawyers, in attending court, rode on horseback from county to county. One day, while riding in company with other lawyers, Mr. Lincoln, who was dressed in a new suit, noticed a pig fast in the mud. He knew if he went to its rescue his clothes would be ruined, but he was so kind-hearted that the picture of poor piggie haunted him, and he could not get it out of his thoughts. After riding two miles he turned his horse's head and returned to the mud puddle. Hitching his horse he waded into the mud, and seizing the squealing pig by the legs and tail, brought him safely to dry land.

Mr. Lincoln had served the people so faithfully in the State Legislature, and had won such distinction as a speaker and debater, that in 1846 the people elected him to Congress. Here he came in contact with the greatest men of the nation.

At this time the question of slavery was beginning to attract the attention of the whole people. The Southern States, in which were many slaves, were desirous of making slave territory of all the land that had been obtained from Mexico. Many people in the North believed that no slaves should be permitted in this new region. From this time on men began to range themselves upon one side or the

other of this great question, and a new party, the Republican, was formed by the men who believed that slavery should be extended no farther.

Mr. Lincoln believed that slavery should not be brought into the new territory. His wonderful speeches on this subject were listened to or read by many people, and made him more famous than ever. In company with Senator Stephen A. Douglas, who was a Democrat, Mr. Lincoln made a tour of the State, holding joint debates at a number of places. Everywhere thousands of people turned out to hear the speakers, and the question of "slavery" and "State Rights" became more prominent than ever before.



STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.

The Republican party was becoming stronger every year, and when its delegates met at Chicago, in 1860, to select a candidate for President, Abraham Lincoln of Illinois was chosen. During the convention some men carried to the platform a number of rails that he had split when a young man, and the delegates cheered themselves hoarse at the sight.

From this time forward Abraham Lincoln becomes a great character in our nation's history.

His election to the Presidency precipitated the Civil War, with its four years of bloodshed and sorrow. During those trying times President Lincoln managed the affairs of the nation with consummate wisdom.

On the eve of taking up the work of his office for a second term he uttered these noble words:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

With one stroke of his pen he gave the slaves their freedom, and when our great armies had brought victory to the North and peace to the nation, it seemed that the great work of Abraham Lincoln had been accomplished. And so it proved, for five days after the surrender of the Confederate army, on the evening of April 14th, as the great war President sat in Ford's Theatre, he was shot by John Wilkes Booth, the actor.

An entire nation—North and South—bowed in grief, and

from every part of the world poured in messages of sorrow. The humble "rail-splitter of Illinois" had taken his place among the great and honored dead of the world.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE OLD STATE HOUSE AT KASKASKIA—TAKEN A FEW MONTHS BEFORE IT WAS SWALLOWED UP BY THE RIVER

CIVIL WAR PERIOD

THE CHICAGO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION BUILDING.

Believed to Be the Only Building Ever Erected and Fitted Throughout of Fire-Proof Material.

CHAPTER XXII.

ILLINOIS IN THE GREAT WAR.

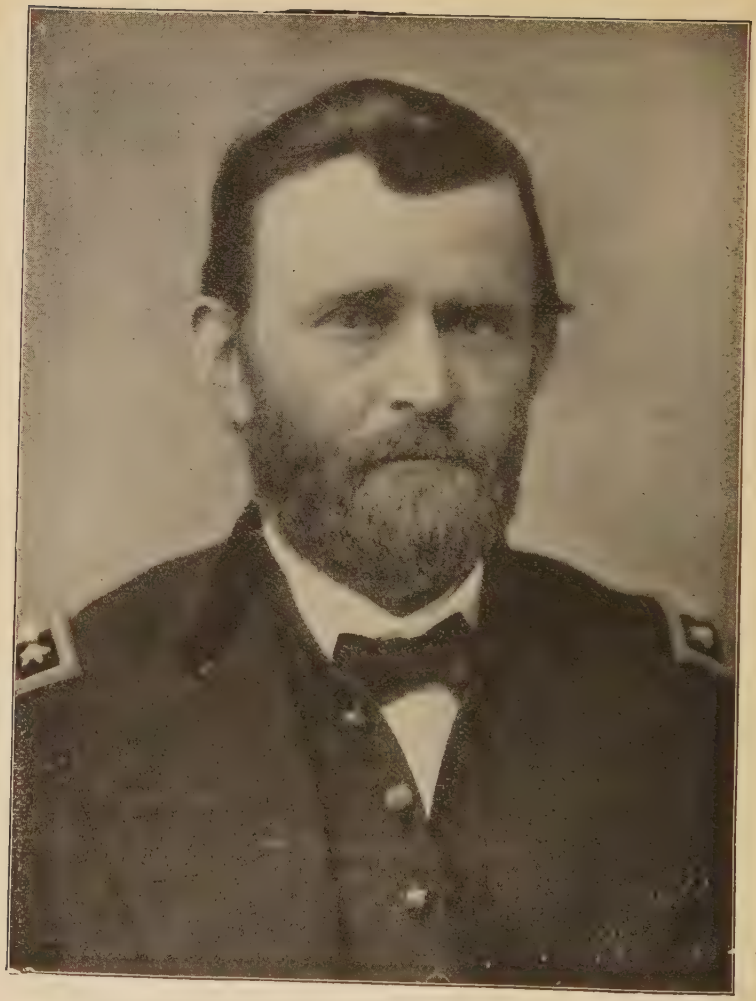
Our prolonged struggle for the preservation of the Union has taken its place in history among the great wars of the world.

For the numbers engaged, the valor displayed by the soldiers of both North and South, the issues involved and the length of time the conflict lasted, it has proven the most remarkable war of modern times.

Volumes have been written upon the part taken in this great civil duel by the soldiers from Illinois.

In all, our State furnished 260,000 men for the conflict. This places Illinois in the fourth rank, for, the States of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio excepted, she furnished more troops than any other. But in 1860 each of these States had many more inhabitants, and in proportion to her population then, Illinois furnished a greater number of soldiers than any other State except Kansas. One is almost tempted to claim that the war could not have been won without the aid of the brave men from Illinois, but this would be unfair to other loyal States. It required the united efforts of all, and every State deserves praise and honor. Illinois was peculiarly fortunate in furnishing many illustrious leaders.

First of all we must place our President, Abraham Lincoln, the one man of the nation to guide the country during its dark hour of conflict.



GENERAL U. S. GRANT.

Next to him stands General U. S. Grant, the greatest captain of his time. After these great men come a long list of illustrious generals, such as General Hovey, who resigned the presidency of the State Normal School to command a regiment of volunteers; Generals John A. Logan, John A. McLernard, Richard Oglesby, John M. Palmer, John A. Rawlins, John Pope, and a host of others, who added to the luster of Illinois by their valor and daring.

But these great leaders, of whom we are justly proud, would have been powerless but for the rank and file of patriotic men who left their harvests ungathered, their tools upon the work bench, their ledgers upon the desks, and marched southward to the inspiring music of war.

At Belmont, November 7, 1861, the Illinois troops under command of General Grant fought the first battle of importance. From here they marched against Forts Henry and Donelson. The taking of Fort Donelson was the first great victory for the North, and throughout the country a shout of thanksgiving went up.

Some of the Illinois regiments were nearly cut to pieces in this engagement, and the loss of officers was very great.

It was at this battle that General Grant gained the name of Unconditional Surrender Grant, by dictating the following message to the Confederate commander, General Buckner: "No terms but unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works."

In recognition of the valor displayed by the Illinois troops in this battle, a New England author wrote the following poem, which was published in the Atlantic Monthly:

"Oh, gales that dash the Atlantic's swell
Along our rocky shores,
Whose thunders diapason swell
New England's glad hurrahs,

"Bear, to the prairies of the West,
The echoes of our joy;
The prayer that springs in every breast,
God bless thee, Illinois.

"Oh, awful hours when grape and shell
Tore through the unflinching line;
'Stand firm, remove the men who fell,
Close up, and wait the sign.'

"It came at last; now, lads, the steel!
The rushing hosts deploy;
Charge, boys, the broken traitors reel,
Huzza! for Illinois.

"In vain thy rampart, Donelson,
The living torrent bars;
It leaps the wall, the fort is won,
Up go the stripes and stars!

"Thy proudest mother's eyelids fill,
As dares her gallant boy,
And Plymouth Rock and Bunker Hill,
Yearn to thee, Illinois."

* * * * *

One of the most daring deeds of the war was performed by General Benjamin H. Grierson and his Illinois cavalry, during the siege of Vicksburg. Starting from La Grange, Tennessee, he swept through the entire State of Mississippi and part of Louisiana, burning bridges, destroying rail-

roads, striking Confederate outposts and damaging much property. He reached the Union lines in safety, having ridden a distance of 800 miles in sixteen days. The last thirty hours his men rode without eating or resting. So exhausted were the soldiers that they went to sleep in their saddles, and were only aroused by the sound of musketry. After a skirmish they would again relapse into sleep.

A record of Illinois troops in the war would recount weary marches and fierce battles in Arkansas, Texas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia and other Southern States.

Illinois troops withstood the shock of the rebel hosts upon the bloody field of Shiloh; Illinois troops fought at Perryville and Corinth; Illinois troops contended at Chickamauga and climbed the heights of Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain; Illinois troops waited weary weeks in the trenches around Vicksburg, and shouted for joy when the city finally surrendered; Illinois troops fired the first shot at the battle of Gettysburg; Illinois troops marched with Sherman "from Atlanta to the sea," and took their place in the last grand review.

On the banks of the Mississippi, and where the Tennessee ripples over its rocky bed; in the valleys of the Southern mountains, and by the waters of the Gulf, along the track of the marching hosts, may be found the resting places of thousands of Illinois soldiers who went forth to battle but never returned.

STAY AT HOMES.

While the great mass of men at the North were loyal to the Union, there were others to be found in nearly every community who secretly sympathized with the South. Be-

lieving in the system of slavery, they would have "preferred the triumph of the South to the restoration of the Union with slavery abolished." These men interfered in many ways with the work of the war. Desertion was encouraged, resistance to the draft was advised, and some of them acted as spies for the enemy. A secret association was formed, known as the "Knights of the Golden Circle." Members of this order, aided by officers of the South, even went so far as to plan the liberation of the Confederate prisoners held at Chicago and Rock Island. The scheme also included the burning of Chicago. But the authorities were warned in time and the attempt was frustrated.

To counteract the work of this organization, the loyal men formed a secret political society known as the "Union League of America." Organized first in Tazewell County in 1862, this order rapidly spread from State to State, and before the close of the war it had reached a membership of 175,000. This organization, a mighty influence for good, materially assisted the Union cause.

The work of the soldiers in the field was nobly assisted by the "stay-at-homes." Without patriotic men to carry on manufactures and railroads, harvest crops, till fields and provide for the women and children, the success of the North would have been impossible.

These men with their aid and sympathy, freely giving of their time and money, kept the flame of patriotism burning brightly, and made possible our glorious success.

When news reached Illinois of the bloody and glorious victory of Fort Donelson, Governor Yates, often called "the soldier's friend," accompanied by his staff, hastened to the field of battle to assist in caring for the sick and wounded.

A sanitary commission was established. Medical supplies and provisions were collected and distributed among the wounded in camp and hospital. The State also established hospitals at Peoria, Quincy and Springfield, to which many wounded were conveyed. Immediately after the battle of Shiloh, the governor chartered a steamboat, and with nurses, physicians and supplies, hastened to the scene of conflict. His coming was hailed with joy by the suffering soldiers, many of whom had lain upon the ground for a week with their wounds unattended. The boat, loaded with those most severely injured, hastened to the Northern hospitals and returned with all speed for others. In this way thousands of our wounded soldiers were brought back to the State, where they were cared for by their relatives and friends.

Governor Yates remarked, "We must not let our brave boys think they have been forgotten, but follow them in their weary marches, with such things as they need for their comfort, which the Government cannot supply, and with messages of love and encouragement from home, wherever they go and at whatever cost."

Auxiliary associations, aid societies and soldiers' homes were established everywhere. Through these agencies thousands of dollars in money and large quantities of provisions were collected and distributed, the whole amounting to more than a million dollars.

THE WOMEN OF ILLINOIS.

The mothers and sisters of Illinois were foremost in every effort to lend aid, and give comfort. Scarcely had the smoke of battle cleared away when they presented them-

selves to nurse the wounded. At home they organized societies to knit stockings, pick lint for the wounded, and prepare delicacies and reading matter for their sons and brothers at the front. The efficiency of the home organizations was due largely to our heroic women.

The patriotic women of Galena, unable to enlist, determined to make uniforms for the first company that their town sent into the field. Accordingly they purchased the necessary cloth, employed tailors to cut the garments, and made them up themselves.

The ladies of many communities made the flags that were borne aloft as the companies marched to the war.

WAR SONGS.

Among the factors that contributed to the success of the Union cause scarcely any was more important than the many inspiring and thrilling songs that were composed and sung at that time, some of the best of which were written by citizens of Illinois. George F. Root of Chicago was one of the most gifted composers of war music. His songs, "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching," "Just Before the Battle, Mother," and "The Battle Cry of Freedom" were sung on every battlefield, and around every camp fire.

When the "emancipation proclamation" was issued by President Lincoln many officers took offense, and some were upon the point of resigning their commands. At about that time a glee club from Chicago came into the camp singing a new song, "The Battle Cry of Freedom."

"The Union forever, hurrah! boys, hurrah!
Down with the traitor, up with the stars,

While we rally round the flag, boys, rally once again,
Shouting the battle cry of Freedom."

The effect was wonderful. The words ran through the camps like wild fire. Every one took up the refrain.

"The Union forever, hurrah! boys, hurrah!"

From tent to tent sounded the harmony. All thoughts of resigning were thrown to the winds while the great army united in the mighty chorus.

The inspiring songs, "Brave Boys are They," "Kingdom Coming" and "Marching Through Georgia," were written by Henry Clay Work of Illinois.

From the pine woods of Arkansas, the swamps of Virginia, the mountain tops of Georgia and the bayous of Louisiana, ascended a chorus of song whose music thrilled the patriotic soul, and whose words recalled again and again the principles for which the boys in blue were risking their lives. These songs, simple in language and sweet in melody, touched the heart beyond the power of argument, recalling again the words of Andrew Fletcher, uttered two hundreds years ago, "Give me the making of the ballads, and I care not who makes the laws of a nation." One Confederate commander remarked, "I shall never forget the first time I heard 'Rally Round the Flag.' It was a nasty night, during the Seven-days fight; I was on picket, when just before taps, some fellow on the other side struck up that song and others joined in the chorus. Tom B. sung out: 'Good heavens, Cap, what are those fellows made of? Here we've licked them six days running, and now on the eve of the seventh they're singing "Rally Round

the Flag.'' I tell you that song sounded to me like the death knell of doom, and my heart went down into my boots, and it has been an up hill fight with me ever since that night."

A few days after the surrender of Lee, another Confederate commander who heard these songs sung by a Union quartette, exclaimed: "Gentlemen, if we'd had your songs we'd have licked you out of your boots. Who couldn't have marched or fought with such songs?"

And so these stirring army songs, breathing a spirit of patriotism and loyalty, played their part in winning the war for the Union.

CHAPTER XXIII.

CHICAGO.

Fort Dearborn, which had been destroyed by the Indians in 1812, was rebuilt in 1816, and the settlers began to gather about it again. The Indian trader, John Kinzie, with his family, was the first to return, but until 1827 the number of families did not exceed eight. In 1829 the survey of the canal, which was to unite the waters of Lake Michigan with the Illinois River, and the arrival of commissioners to lay out a town, mark the beginning of the great metropolis.

Then followed the official act of organization, authorizing the platting and surveying of the original town site. This embraced the territory which now lies between Madison and State, and Kinzie and Halsted streets. The map of the town, drawn by the first city surveyor, James Thompson, bears the date, August 4, 1830.

Chicago River, one and a half miles in length, is formed by the union of two small streams, which flow the one from the northwest and the other from the southwest. This peculiar feature naturally divided the town site into three parts, North, South and West. The cabins of the early settlers were reared upon the west side—known as Wolfe's Point. On the north side was built the Miller House, and on the south side was located a pretentious tavern, partly log and partly frame, kept by Mr. Elijah Wentworth.

VIEW OF CHICAGO IN 1821 TAKEN FROM NATURE BY HENRY R. SCHOOLCRAFT.

The prospect of obtaining work upon the canal attracted people to the new town, and in the following year Cook County, named for Daniel P. Cook, representative in Congress, was organized, and included, aside from its present territory, five other counties.

In 1830 Stephen Van R. Forbes taught the first school in a log cabin standing near what is now the corner of Randolph street and Michigan avenue. The first church service was held in 1832. In 1833 Chicago was honored with a weekly mail and post office. During this year an election was held to determine whether it should become an incorporated town. Twenty-eight men, the entire male population, were present at the polls. In the following year the levy for city taxes amounted to $48.90, and a loan of $60 for public improvements was negotiated.

In 1836, although the town had increased to more than two hundred voters, the State Bank refused it a loan of $25,000.

The Legislature incorporated "the city of Chicago" in 1837, and on the first Tuesday in May the Hon. William B. Ogden was elected mayor.

The census now showed a population of 4,179, and the people began to think seriously of making permanent public improvements. The altitude of the city was only a few feet above the level of the lake. Consequently there was no drainage, and after a heavy rain the entire surface was covered with water. Accordingly the city raised the grade of the streets several feet above the ground floors of the dwellings, filling in with clay dredged from the harbor, and the houses were raised to conform to the new level.

The enterprise and energy of the little city was shown by the method it pursued to obtain its water supply.

In 1839 a company erected a reservoir at the corner of Michigan avenue and Water street, and with a pump, propelled by a twenty-five horse-power engine, drew water from the lake and distributed it to the city through pipes made of logs, bored to carry a stream from three to five inches in diameter. But the little city soon outgrew this primitive system, and in 1851 another plan was devised. A new company made a crib of wood 20x40 feet, and sunk it in the lake six hundred feet from shore. From this crib the water was conducted to the lake front, where it was collected in a well twenty-five feet deep. Here a pump with a two hundred horse-power engine forced the water through the distributing pipes. Three stone reservoirs in different portions of the city were used for storing purposes, and a large tower at the engine house served the double purpose of chimney and reservoir. In 1862 one hundred and five miles of water pipe had been laid.

As early as 1860 Chicago was beginning to be a railroad center, and the commerce of lake and river was increasing immensely.

The growing population, at this time, numbering more than 100,000, required a better system of drainage. The sewerage of the city, the refuse of packing houses situated along the banks of the river, were all poured into the stream. As the current was always sluggish the Chicago River gradually became a dreadful nuisance. Complaint was also made that when the wind was in certain quarters filth was carried out to the crib, to be redistributed by the waterworks through the mains.

JOHN KINSEY'S HOUSE —First American Home in Chicago.

The water supply was purified in 1863 by the construction of a tunnel beneath the lake, through which pure water could be drawn. The new tunnel necessitated a monster crib, a powerful engine, and a stone tower one hundred and thirty feet high. These extensive improvements cost the city a million of dollars, and on their completion a great civic parade was held.

So successful had the city been in forcing a tunnel beneath the lake bed that the people resolved to tunnel the river for the purpose of facilitating business traffic, which was often impeded by the opening of pivot bridges which spanned the stream. In 1869 a tunnel, with a double driveway and foot path for pedestrians, was built under the river on the line of Washington street, connecting the South and West Sides. Two years after, a larger and better tunnel was forced under the main stream on the line of La Salle street, connecting the North and South Sides.

Pure drinking water was abundant, but the Chicago River was becoming more and more polluted. At length the city obtained permission from the Legislature to establish a continuous flow of water from the lake to the Illinois Canal by way of the Chicago River. At first it seemed absurd to think of making water flow up stream, but after many miles of solid rock had been excavated and the obstructing barriers torn away, the murky flood of the river began to move into the new channel, which henceforth was to serve as its outlet.

THE GREAT FIRE.

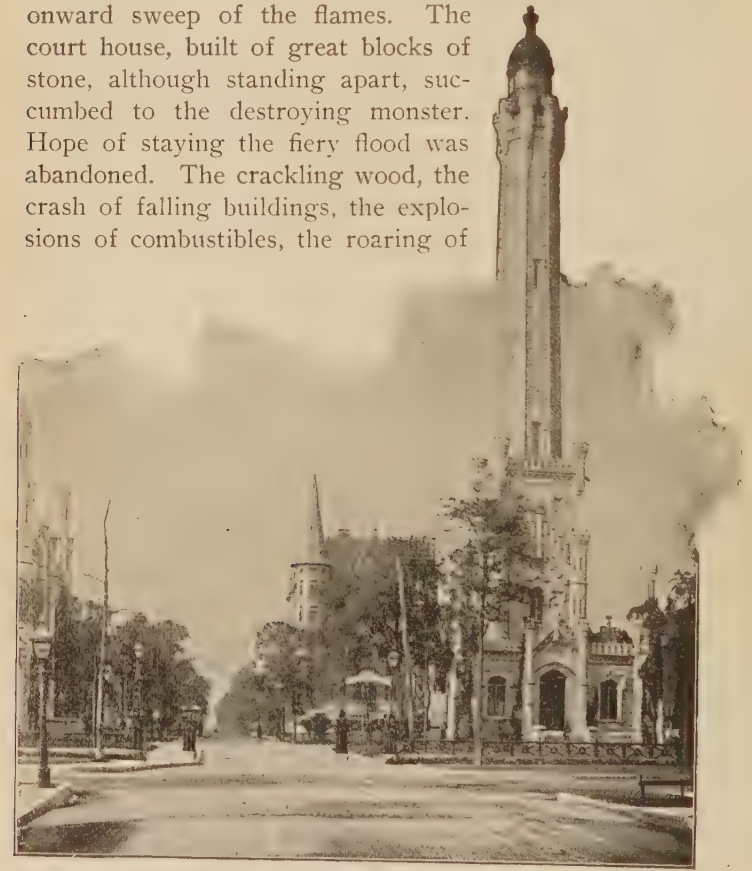
Chicago had grown to be a populous city of 300,000 people, and was the great distributing center for the Mis-

sissippi Valley and the lake region. Its many large trunk railroad lines reached out their hundred arms to gather in the wealth of Southern and Western States.

The products of forest, mine and fertile soil were brought to her wharves by a thousand vessels. From her great warehouses and factories articles of commerce were sent to every land. The fame of her enterprising merchants and sagacious business men had become world wide. Her rapid growth had made her the marvel of the world. While her substantial business blocks were constructed of stone and brick, her many miles of outlying streets were lined with thousands of wooden dwellings. Suddenly she was overtaken by the most awful fire that ever devastated a community.

In the southwestern part of the city, amidst rude and inferior buildings, lived Mrs. O'Leary. Report has it that on the night of October 8th, 1871, she went out to milk her cow and carried to the shed a lighted lamp. The unruly beast, irritated by its mistress, kicked over the lamp, which exploded, and the ignited oil was scattered upon the straw and refuse. In an instant the shed was in a blaze, and the adjacent dwellings, dry as tinder, speedily caught fire. The flames spread to other buildings, and before the inhabitants realized the seriousness of the situation, the fire was beyond control. Fanned by a strong gale that was blowing from the southwest, the flames swept toward the center of the doomed city. Gathering in volume as it advanced, the fire fiend marched toward the Chicago River. Billows of flame and smoke rolled heavenward, casting showers of brands and sparks far in advance. The stately and sub-

stantial iron and stone structures in the business portion of the city crumbled and melted away like wax before its heated breath. The river proved a feeble barrier to the onward sweep of the flames. The court house, built of great blocks of stone, although standing apart, succumbed to the destroying monster. Hope of staying the fiery flood was abandoned. The crackling wood, the crash of falling buildings, the explosions of combustibles, the roaring of



WATER WORKS TOWER.

flames and the shouts of the people intermingled in an awful chorus that unnerved the strong and terrified the weak The heat was so intense that water thrown upon the conflagration was licked up into vapor.

The desolation of the people was complete. A hundred thousand, rendered homeless by the flames, huddled to-

AUDITORIUM BUILDING.

gether upon the bleak prairies or gathered in open spaces upon the lake beach. Here young and old, sick and strong, vile and virtuous, millionaire and beggar, were drenched by the downpour of rain that followed the fire. Seventeen thousand five hundred buildings, covering 2,124 acres and

valued at $150,000,000, had been swept away by the flames.

When news of the dire calamity spread abroad, the civilized world responded generously. Donations of food, clothing and money began to flow in upon the stricken city. Bureaus of distribution were organized, and contributions in money to the extent of $7,000,000 were sent in. A special session of the Legislature reimbursed to the city the $3,000,000 it had expended upon deepening the canal.

But the city, though in ashes, was not dead. The courage, self-reliance and ability of her citizens remained. With characteristic energy they began to rebuild their homes and engage in business. Massive business blocks, larger and more stately than those destroyed, lifted their heads above the waters of the lake. The destruction of the city by the flames did not astonish the world more than its later prosperity. The new Chicago grew more rapidly than the old, and in a few years it had become the second commercial center of the nation.

THE WORLD'S FAIR.

When a site was to be selected for holding a great fair in honor of the four hundredth anniversary of America's discovery, the choice very properly fell to Chicago. Columbus landed upon the new world in 1492, but the preparations for the Exposition were upon so vast a scale that it was not formally opened until May 1st of the year following the anniversary.

Under the skilful management of an able and patriotic committee, Jackson Park, fronting upon Lake Michigan, was transformed into an enchanted land. Beautiful buildings arose upon every hand. Stately and appropriate

edifices were erected by the nations of the world and became headquarters for the foreigners who thronged the Fair. Congress appropriated ten millions of dollars to be used in various ways, and every State erected buildings in which were grouped the products of mine, forest, cultivated field and workshop. Treasures of art and science were gathered from every quarter of the globe and added to the

FIELD MUSEUM.

graceful lines of the enchanting picture. For six months the grounds and buildings were crowded with people from every land.

Coming, as it did, on the last decade of the nineteenth century, the "World's Columbian Exposition" was a fit

crown, not only for the expiring century, but for the four hundred years of growth and development which made possible the gigantic display of instructive and delightful wonders brought together within its portals.

With the location of the "World's Fair" in Chicago the population of the city was greatly increased, and every succeeding year has added to the number of people already there. The system of drainage which was sufficient for hundreds of thousands was inadequate for millions, and it was found necessary to build the

CHICAGO DRAINAGE CANAL.

This remarkable structure, which was finished at the beginning of the year 1900, is indeed a triumph of engineering skill. As has been mentioned before, the city of Chicago had, in 1865, deepened the Illinois and Michigan Canal so as to cleanse the waters of the Chicago River. If in 1865 such work was deemed advisable, in 1894 it became a necessity.

It is more than probable that in pre-historic times the Chicago River, as well as one or two others now obliterated, were outlets to Lake Michigan. The great canal then restores the ancient topographical conditions.

To accomplish this it was necessary to cut through the rocks and glacial drift to be found between Lockport and Chicago. It meant a cut twenty-eight miles in length and thirty-five feet in depth. This continuous depth makes the Chicago canal the greatest artificial waterway ever constructed. The flow is of over 360,000 cubic feet of water per minute. At Lockport the canal becomes a harbor or basin, about 500 feet in width, for the purpose of accom-

ART INSTITUTE, CHICAGO.

modating the largest lake vessels. Seven years of time and thirty-three millions of dollars ($33,000,000), with the employment of more than one hundred thousand men, are the figures given for the work accomplished. For a drainage canal thirteen millions of dollars ($13,000,000) would have sufficed, but to this the city added twenty millions ($20,000,000), that it might not only facilitate drainage, but become the terminus of a mammoth ship canal, which would reach the Gulf by the smaller navigable rivers and the Mississippi.

Its commercial value is as great as its sanitary worth. Through the canal to the Illinois and Mississippi and thence to the Gulf go the ships of Chicago. Chicago's enterprise has made her an Atlantic seaport.

PARKS AND BOULEVARDS.

With her marvelous growth, Chicago has also provided a magnificent system of parks and boulevards. The six large parks and many smaller ones are connected by nearly seventy miles of boulevards, which form a wonderful driveway through and around the city. In these beautiful drives and parks one can spend days apart from the crash and roar of the city's commerce.

Wonderful has been the growth and development of this metropolis, which was a despised hamlet when St. Louis, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Detroit were flourishing towns. At the opening of the twentieth century she has outstripped her sisters, and stands to-day with her population of 2,000,000 people, the greatest grain market, the greatest live stock market, the greatest railroad center in the world. Though removed from the ocean, she is the largest ship-

ping port on the continent, and as a money center is second only to New York. Her citizens are truly proud of her advancement, and believe that the Chicago of to-day is only the foundation for the Greater Chicago of the future.

GRANT STATUE, LINCOLN PARK.

CHAPTER XXIV.

OUR STATE INSTITUTIONS.

Every State provides for the confinement of its criminals and cares for its unfortunates. To this end Illinois has provided a beneficent and liberal system of State, penal and charitable institutions.

STATE PENITENTIARIES.

The rude log jails of the early days were insufficient to hold the many desperate criminals that were to be found upon the frontier. A penitentiary building was greatly needed, but the people were unwilling to endure the burden of taxation necessary to secure it. Fortunately, at this time, Congress ceded to the State 40,000 acres of land, the funds derived from the sale of which were to be applied toward the erection of a State prison. Such a building, containing twenty-four cells, was erected at Alton in 1827. But in a few years it proved inadequate, and the State erected at Joliet a building that would accommodate 1,000 prisoners. In 1860 the convicts were removed thither from Alton.

As the population increased, another similar institution was built upon the banks of the Mississippi River near Chester.

THE COUNTY POOR.

In nearly every county is to be found an almshouse located upon an ample farm. Here the poor or sick who

have no other home are kindly cared for. Charity is dispensed to others through the County Court or by the Board of Supervisors.

THE DEAF AND DUMB.

It was discovered that some of these dependent classes could be made self-supporting citizens by a careful system of education. To Orville H. Browning of Quincy, who had made an exhaustive study of the subject, belongs the honor of inaugurating a movement to establish an "Asylum for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb." The school was located at Jacksonville, and opened on January 26, 1846, with only four pupils. As the work of the school became known its numbers rapidly increased, until at the present time, it is the largest school of the kind in the world. Here have been trained to lives of usefulness nearly 4,000 persons, who otherwise would have been a burden to society. The boys are taught typesetting, broom-making, carpentry and other useful trades. The girls learn to do housework, to draw, to paint and make many kinds of fancy work.

ASYLUMS FOR THE INSANE.

No class of unfortunates appeals to us more strongly than the insane. Miss Dorothea Dix early applied herself to the bettering of their pitiable condition. This woman traveled over the State, speaking to audiences upon the subject, and enlisting the sympathy of the people. When the State Legislature met, she addressed to them an eloquent and convincing argument favoring the establishment of an asylum for the care of the insane. Accordingly, such a hospital was located on a beautiful stretch of prairie-land

a mile south of Jacksonville. From 1851, the year in which the first patient was received, the institution has grown and prospered. As the population of the State increased it became necessary to make provision for many more patients than could be accommodated at the Jacksonville Asylum. The Legislature, in 1869, provided for the erection of two other hospitals: One known as the Northern Home for the Insane, located on the banks of the Fox River, near Elgin; the other established at Anna. Although these hospitals are very large, in a few years the State was compelled to build another, which was located near Kankakee. This institution has attracted much attention, both at home and abroad. It consists of a large hospital building, surrounded by a number of detached cottages, which are occupied by the patients. The plan has proven so successful that it has been copied by the States of Ohio, Indiana and New York.

Notwithstanding the extensive provision made for this class of unfortunates, it became necessary to provide yet another hospital.

In the fall of 1898 this newest institution, located at Watertown, near Rock Island, opened its doors to receive invalids. Within three months it was occupied by more than six hundred patients.

INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

Yet another beneficent institution had its beginning at Jacksonville. Samuel Bacon, a blind man, in 1847 opened a private school in that city for those who were afflicted like himself.

This gave the people the idea of a school for the blind,

and in 1849 a bill for the establishment of such an institution passed the Legislature. It was opened during the same year in rented buildings, and Mr. Bacon was placed in charge. The conduct of this school for many years has been wise and careful. Under the direction of the present Superintendent, Frank H. Hall, the fame of the institution has passed beyond the limits of our State and nation. Mr. Hall has invented a typewriter for the blind and other conveniences that have found their way into schools of this class everywhere.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

Several other charitable institutions should be mentioned. In 1875 the School for Feeble Minded Children, which had been an outgrowth of the Deaf and Dumb Institution at Jacksonville, was removed to Lincoln, where it was provided with ample and beautiful buildings. This school, under the management of Dr. Chas. T. Wilbur and those who have followed him, has done a beneficent and noble work for this peculiar class of unfortunate people.

At Normal the State has established a "Home for the intellectual, moral and physical development of children whose fathers served in the Union army or navy during the war." The idea of founding this home originated in a "most patriotic impulse on the part of the people to fulfil the pledge made to the gallant soldiers who imperiled their lives on the field of battle during the dark days of the Civil War, that if they fell in the fight the widows and children should be cared for." This pledge is being sacredly kept by the State and nation.

In 1885 the General Assembly established a Home for Soldiers and Sailors. This institution, built at a cost of $200,000, was located at Quincy. It has proved a boon to many a brave veteran who, without its comfort, would be compelled to spend his old age in poverty and want.

In response to a movement set on foot by the State Teachers' Association, the legislature in 1867 passed an act providing for the establishment of a Juvenile Reform School.

This institution is located at Pontiac. The first superintendent, George W. Perkins, was soon succeeded by Dr. J. D. Scouller, who performed efficient service for many years.

All these institutions, except the penitentiaries, are under the general supervision and management of a "Board of State Commissioners of Public Charities." The wise and discriminating oversight of this Board has done much to increase the efficiency of our State charitable institutions.

It costs the State many millions of dollars to maintain these charities, but every State has within its borders such classes of people to be cared for. Scattered through the various communities, they would be a public charge. Gathered into homes and schools, where they can be given every comfort and the advantage of skilled service, the expense of their care and instruction falls uniformly upon the people of the entire State.

To all are extended comforts and advantages, while many, by learning useful trades, are taught to become self-supporting and useful citizens.

CHAPTER XXV.

EDUCATION IN ILLINOIS.

The Continental Congress which prepared the "Ordinance of 1787," wisely provided for a system of public schools for the Northwest Territory. The sixteenth section of every township was reserved to provide funds for the maintenance of public schools within said township. Two entire townships in each State were also set aside for the use of a "future seminary of learning" or university.

Thus generously did these early statesmen provide for the education of the children who were to be born in the territory north of the Ohio River. But it was not until many years after these lands had been appropriated that they were sold and the money was used for the purpose intended. As yet the entire territory was a wilderness.

The early French of Illinois established a seminary of learning at Kaskaskia in 1721. But this institution probably exerted little influence upon the community, for Governor Reynolds tells us in his "History of Illinois" that these happy people "had use for neither knowledge nor wealth, and therefore possessed not much of either."

The early American settlers of Illinois for the most part were ignorant and poor. Living in thinly populated regions, they gave little thought to the education of their children.

The first schools were held in the cabins of the settlers, and were taught by wandering teachers whose educational

qualifications were little above those of the people whom they served. Gradually, however, log school houses were built in many communities. The floors of these rude buildings were made of thin slabs called puncheons, which were hewn smooth upon one side. Often the entire end of the school house was taken up with a huge fireplace crowned with a chimney of sticks and mud. The desks and benches without backs were hewn from logs and a long thin slab served as a writing table.

Reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling constituted the course of study. In the same reading class could be found copies of the New Testament, Weem's Life of Washington or Franklin, and the Pilgrim's Progress.

The teacher usually went around the neighborhood with a subscription paper. His charges were from $1.00 to $2.50 per school month for each pupil. As there was little or no money in the new country, he took his pay in produce,—wheat, tallow, skins, wool or young cattle. If a single man, he usually "boarded around" in the humble cabins of his patrons. Before and after school hours he assisted in splitting wood, making fires or milking the cows. It is said that John Doyle, an Irishman, taught a school at Kaskaskia in 1778. John Seeley, who has been called "the first American school master of Illinois," taught in Monroe County as early as 1783. The first school house was built in 1811 at Shiloh in St. Clair County.

In this irregular fashion, public instruction continued during the early days of the pioneers.

The village of Upper Alton was the first to lead off in the attempt to establish a school sustained at public expense. The people set apart 100 lots, the funds provided

from the sale of which were to be applied "half for the support of the Gospel" and half for the public schools. In addition, a tax for the support of the schools was imposed upon the remaining real estate of the town. But no general effort was made to establish a public school system throughout the State until 1825, when the legislature passed an act whereby public schools, supported by taxation, were to be opened in all counties of the State. A majority of the public had never been taxed to support schools of any kind, and resented the idea of being compelled to pay the tuition of other people's children. The measure proved so unpopular that four years later the law was repealed and another substituted, which declared that no man should be taxed except by his own consent.

This was a hard blow to the public schools, but a tide of immigration friendly to education had begun to pour in from the East. The sentiment in favor of schools expressed itself in the founding of a number of

DENOMINATIONAL COLLEGES.

Dr. John Murray, in 1818, established a Baptist College at Upper Alton. McKendree College, at Lebanon, was planted in 1828, with Rev. (afterward Bishop) E. H. Ames as the first principal. Peter Cartwright, a noted Methodist preacher, was one of the prime movers in this enterprise. A movement to establish a school at Jacksonville was inaugurated as early as 1827. The result was Illinois College, formally opened in 1829. Julian M. Sturtevant, the first teacher, afterward became President in 1844. Dr. Edward Beecher became the first President in 1831.

Within the twenty years that followed the legislation of

1825, most of the denominational colleges of the State were established. During this period a colony came from western New York with the intention of locating a college settlement in the new State. A tract of land near Knoxville was purchased for the purpose. In the midst of the colony lands Knox College was founded in 1837, and the town of Galesburg was laid out around it. The institution attracted to the new town people of sobriety, earnestness and refinement. Of all the communities that assisted in the upbuilding of "the great West," none performed a greater work or is deserving of more praise than the colony of Christian people which established Knox College.

Another institution worthy of mention in this connection is the Monticello Female Seminary at Godfrey. This school, the first seminary in the Mississippi Valley for the education of young women, was founded in 1835 by Captain Benjamin Godfrey. The first building was erected amidst the foliage of a primeval forest. To-day the work of teaching is carried on in a beautiful stone structure built at a cost of $250,000. Its course of study was modeled after that of Yale College, and from the first it possessed a faculty of cultured men and women.

The influence of these schools upon the people of the new State can never be estimated.

Their students and graduates settled in every portion of the State, and as doctors, lawyers, farmers, preachers and business men did much to elevate the life and influence the opinions of the early settlers. It was no small task to convince the people that the paramount duty of the State was to give to every child the opportunity to obtain a common school education. Indeed, it was largely through

LIBRARY BUILDING, STATE UNIVERSITY.

the efforts of the teachers and friends of these denominational colleges that the present public school system was finally adopted.

There was held at Peoria in 1844 a convention of educators, which addressed a memorial to the legislature demanding the imposing of a general school tax and the establishment of the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction. In 1853 the first State Association of Teachers met at Springfield, and the following year the legislature complied with this request. A school tax was imposed and Ninian Edwards became the first State Superintendent.

The advent of better teachers and improved schoolhouses announced the dawn of a new day. The citizens of Illinois are justly proud of the system of public education, which has done so much to advance the State to a front rank among the commonwealths of our nation.

The amount expended by Illinois for educational purposes is exceeded by that of New York alone. It surpasses that of Pennsylvania or Ohio, is more than twice that of Missouri, and is seven times greater than the amount expended by Kentucky.

THE NORMAL SCHOOLS.

The public school system having been fully determined upon, it became necessary to found a school where teachers might be properly trained. Accordingly, in 1857, the State legislature passed a law establishing a "State Normal University," "to qualify teachers for the common schools of the State."

The Board of Trustees selected by the legislature chose a site for the new school near Bloomington. Here the

buildings were erected, and around them sprang up the beautiful little city of Normal. The school entered at once upon a successful career with Charles W. Hovey as the first principal. It has performed excellent work for the cause of education, and has taken high rank among the other normal schools of the nation.

But our commonwealth is of great extent. In a few years a training school for teachers was demanded by Southern Illinois. In 1874 the "Southern Illinois Normal University" was located at Carbondale. This institution has done an important work for the public schools of Southern Illinois.

As the population increased, the State established other Normals at Charleston and DeKalb, and funds are already appropriated for still another to be located in the western part of the State.

THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

The crown of our educational system is the State University. The wisdom of the early legislators in granting many thousands of acres of land for the founding of a seminary of learning bore fruit in Illinois, when the State University was located between the cities of Champaign and Urbana.

Dr. John M. Gregory, of Michigan, was inaugurated president in 1868, but not until five years later was the main building of the school completed. Recently, beautiful new buildings have been erected; various departments of instruction have been enlarged and others added. To-day the Illinois State University compares favorably with the largest and best equipped schools of the nation.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

In recent years other schools and colleges have been established within the borders of the State. The phenomenal growth of the city of Chicago, with its libraries, art galleries and museums has attracted to its vicinity some of the best of these institutions, making Chicago the greatest educational center of the interior. The Chicago University, the Northwestern University, the Lake Forest University, and the host of theological seminaries, commercial and professional schools, add their beneficent influence to the educational forces of the State.

KENT CHEMICAL LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

APPENDIX

Appendix—A Resume.

Prepared for use as a Text Book on the History of Illinois, and bringing the contents of this volume down to date, July, 1905.

By S. R. WINCHELL.

SURFACE.

The State of Illinois is three hundred and eighty-five miles in length and two hundred and eighteen miles in width, covering 55,410 square miles, or 35,462,400 acres. The highest elevation of land is in the northern part of the state, which is about 1,175 feet above the level of the sea. From here the surface slopes gradually to the most southern point, where it is only 350 feet above the Gulf of Mexico. The surface is level, except for an irregular range of hills in the southern part, stretching from Grand Tower on the west to Shawneetown on the east.

RIVERS.

The territory of Illinois extends to the middle of the Ohio River on the southern boundary and the middle of the Mississippi River on the west. The Illinois River

lies wholly within the state, and is nearly 500 miles in length, about one-half of which is navigable.

By the Illinois and Michigan Canal, which unites Lake Michigan with the Illinois River, there is a continuous water passage through the state from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Because of the extreme length of Illinois from north to south, which is more than five and a half degrees of latitude, nearly every staple food product of the world is grown within her borders. The value of all the gold and silver mined in the United States in one year is not equal to that of the farm products of Illinois in the same period of time.

MINERAL PRODUCTS.

Illinois is covered in large part by the products of the carboniferous era. From the northwest to the southeast an immense coal field may be traced for 375 miles, and from St. Louis to the northeast, about 200 miles, covering a total area of about 45,000 square miles. Only certain portions of this great area contain workable coal mines, however. The coal produced is bituminous.

Various kinds of limestone are quarried within the state, from which many of the public buildings have been constructed.

The soil is generally black and of a loamy character.

THE INDIANS.

The Illinois. The Illinois Indians comprised a confederacy of the Peorias, the Kaskaskias, the Cahokias, the Tamawas and the Witchigamies. They occupied and claimed nearly the whole of the State of Illinois, as well as contiguous portions of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Missouri. They belonged to the great Algonquin family, and were friendly to the French. For this reason, and in order to deprive them of their rich hunting grounds, the hostile Iroquois, as well as other tribes, made constant warfare upon them.

The original name of the Illinois was "Illini," meaning "real men." The French changed the plural ending of the word by substituting their own termination, ois.

But finally the Iroquois surprised the Illinois and conquered them. The shattered remnant, in 1769, were assailed by the Pottawottomies, and actually died from thirst and hunger, in their impregnable fortress at what has since been known as "Starved Rock," on the Illinois River. Only one escaped to tell the tale of their sufferings.

The Black Hawk War. By a treaty signed at St. Louis November 3, 1804, the Indians ceded to the United States all land lying between the Rock River and the Mississippi River, and agreed to remove west of the Mississippi. But Black Hawk, a chief of the Sacs, and some others of the Sacs and the Foxes, did not approve of the treaty, and during the war of 1812 sided with the British, and at its close continued in a hostile mood.

In 1830, Black Hawk undertook to unite all Indians against the whites, and in the spring of 1831 a dispute arose about a cornfield which had been purchased by a fur trader and which Black Hawk would not surrender. Governor Reynolds therefore sent General Gaines with a company of volunteers to Fort Armstrong, on Rock Island, near the Indian village, who persuaded Black Hawk and his band to cross the river. But early the next spring Black Hawk and his men recrossed the river, declaring that they were going to their friends, the Winnebagoes, who lived in Wisconsin, for the purpose of planting corn. Governor Reynolds immediately sent General Whiteside, with 1,800 volunteers, to drive them back. A reconnoitering party was met by messengers from Black Hawk carrying a white flag. Contrary to the rules of warfare the volunteers fired on the Indians, killing two of them, which so enraged Black Hawk that he attacked the volunteers, killed eleven of them and drove the rest back to their general. This was the first bloodshed in the Black Hawk War.

The war continued, with occasional conflicts, till August 2d, when nearly all of Black Hawk's band were destroyed, and the valiant warrior surrendered, through the friendly offices of two Winnebago chiefs. The Government at Washington could charge nothing against him but "honorable warfare," and he was returned to his own people. He died near Des Moines, on October 3, 1835.

JOLLIET AND MARQUETTE.

Jacques Marquette was a French Catholic missionary to the Indians on the St. Lawrence River, and later to the Indians of the Upper Lake region. He endeared himself to the Indians everywhere by the gentleness of his manner and the purity of his life.

Sieur Louis Jolliet was a fur trader of Quebec. In November, 1672, he was instructed by Frontenac, the Governor of New France, to make a journey of discovery to the Mississippi River and its mouth. Marquette was chosen as a missionary to accompany the expedition. Nothing could have pleased him more.

Jolliet and Marquette, with five French boatmen, in two birch canoes, started from the mission of St. Ignace, going southward along the western shore of Green Bay to the mission of St. Xavier, up the shallow waters of the Fox River, across Winnebago Lake, by Portage to the headwaters of the Wisconsin River, down the Wisconsin to the great Mississippi, and down the Mississippi to the mouth of the Arkansas River. From this point they returned to the mouth of the Illinois River, and up that stream to an Indian village called Kaskaskia, near the present site of Ottawa. From here they proceeded to the shores of Lake Michigan and back to the Green Bay mission, having been absent four months and traveled 2,500 miles in their birch canoes. From here Jolliet returned to Canada, and Marquette, in the fall of 1674, set out to establish a mission at Kaskaskia. Arriving in Chicago, he was taken ill and remained until spring,

when he proceeded to the accomplishment of his task. But his health failing rapidly, he reluctantly bade them farewell and started to return to his friends in Canada. With two faithful companions he reached the eastern shore of Lake Michigan, near St. Joseph, and there peacefully and thankfully surrendered his work to his Master and closed his eyes in death. The next winter some Indians transferred his bones to the mission of St. Ignace at Mackinac, where they were buried.

LASALLE.

Robert Cavelier, Knight of LaSalle, was born in France, went to Montreal at the age of twenty-three, became an adventurer and discoverer, and later a fur trader.

LaSalle's connection with the history of Illinois begins in December, 1679, when he, with an Italian named Tonti, and ten Frenchmen, entered the State in canoes by way of the Kankakee River.

Floating into the Illinois River, they passed the cliff afterwards famous as "Starved Rock," and built a fortified camp a few miles below Peoria, which was the first home of civilization within the borders of the State.

This camp he called Fort Crevecoeur. From here he returned with five companions on foot to Fort Frontenac in Canada, a distance of 1,200 miles, for the purpose of obtaining materials for building a ship which he might fill with buffalo hides and take down the Mississippi River and across the Atlantic.

TONTI.

Tonti was left in command of the fort. But a succession of troubles immediately followed. According to instructions received from LaSalle, he took a few men and went up the river to examine the cliff, near Kaskaskia, the chief village of the Illinois. As soon as he departed those left behind rose in rebellion, with the exception of two, destroyed the fort, seized the ammunition and fled. The hostile Iroquois then came upon the Illinois and Tonti came near losing his life. At last he escaped to the French mission at Mackinac.

LASALLE'S RETURN TO ILLINOIS.

When LaSalle returned to the village of the Iroquois on the Illinois River he found nothing but desolation. Not knowing what had become of Tonti and his men, he descended to the mouth of the Illinois, where he came upon the field of death where the unfortunate Tamawas had been slaughtered. Returning then to Fort Miami, he resolved to form a league of the western tribes and colonize them about the Rock of St. Louis, as he had named the cliff on the Illinois River. Again he returned to Canada to obtain needed supplies and at Mackinac Mission he was overjoyed to meet Tonti, who returned with him to Canada. Coming again to the present site of Chicago, he continued down the Illinois and the Mississippi to the mouth of the Arkansas, and below to Texas, and then to the Gulf and took possession of the country in the name of France. Returning to Mackinac,

Tonti was sent to the Rock of St. Louis to prepare the place for a fort. LaSalle followed and the fort was named Fort St. Louis. So far his plan for a colony was successful. He now left Tonti in command and went to France for aid in planting colonies at the mouth of the Mississippi River. The King gave him the aid he desired, including four vessels, abundant supplies and 100 soldiers. But the vessels were lost and captured by the Spanish. Disasters multiplied and LaSalle was at last killed by the treachery of some of his own men, who had become disaffected. He was forty-three years of age at the time of his death.

OLD KASKASKIA AND THE EARLY FRENCH.

The earliest mission among the Illinois Indians was established by Marquette at Kaskaskia. This mission was moved about 1695, when the Illinois abandoned the region through fear of the Iroquois, and re-established near the junction of the Kaskaskia River with the Mississippi, where the Indians chose a new site for their village.

A few years later Father Pinet established a mission among the Tamaroa Indians at Cahokia, four miles south of the present site of East St. Louis. Other Frenchmen settled there and the village became one of considerable importance. Within less than a hundred years it became the county seat of St. Clair county. But in 1814 the county seat was transferred to Belleville. In 1844 heavy floods destroyed the village of Cahokia, and it has since been nothing but a hamlet.

By 1750 there were many Frenchmen living along the banks of the Mississippi River, having found access from the Gulf much easier than by way of Mackinac. The province of Louisiana extended indefinitely northward along the river, and Kaskaskia was the chief metropolis of the northern portion. In 1725 it became an incorporated town.

FORT CHARTRES AND THE BRITISH.

The French and the Indians dwelt together in perfect harmony.

In 1718 a site was chosen midway between Kaskaskia and Cahokia for the building of a fort. This was named Fort Chartres, and immediately became the seat of French military power. The French villages of New Chartres, St. Philip and Prairie du Rocher grew into thriving settlements.

In 1750 Fort Chartres was torn down and reconstructed of stone. This was then the strongest and most pretentious fortress in the New World. The soldiers of Fort Chartres were engaged in many battles during the French and Indian War. This fort was formally delivered to the English in October, 1765, they having come into possession of all this territory formerly held by the French, through their conquest of Canada.

In the spring of 1772 the fort was partially destroyed by an overflow of the river, and the British removed their military stores to the fort opposite Kaskaskia, which was named Fort Gage, in honor of the British commander in America.

COLONEL GEORGE ROGERS CLARK AND THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION.

Colonel George Rogers Clark, with a commission from Patrick Henry, the Governor of Virginia, which at that time claimed the territory lying west, even to the Mississippi River, marched northward from Kentucky with upwards of 150 volunteers for the purpose of capturing Kaskaskia and Fort Gage and driving the British from the territory. This was in June, 1778. On the fourth of July they arrived within three miles of Kaskaskia, having marched a distance of 170 miles, most of the way through tangled forests and marshy swamps. The capture was successfully accomplished without bloodshed, and soon Cahokia was also in possession of the colonies.

But the Indians were allies of the British, and were not disposed to submit to peaceable occupation of their country by the Americans. A great council was held at Cahokia and Colonel Clark was successful in persuading them to be friends.

Colonel Clark next marched his men across the State and captured Fort Vincennes, on the Wabash, which gave the whole Northwest Territory to the colonies. The Virginia Assembly named the captured country the Territory of Illinois.

THE ORDINANCE OF 1787.

Under the Ordinance of 1787 Governor St. Clair, who had been appointed by President Washington the first Governor of the Northwest Territory, which included

the present States of Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, came to Kaskaskia, in February, 1791, from Marietta, the seat of the territorial government, for the purpose of organizing a local government and distributing the lands to their rightful owners.

St. Clair county thus became the first organized county within the present state, and Cahokia the first county seat.

THE ILLINOIS PIONEERS.

The first Americans to enter the Illinois country were the soldiers of Colonel George Rogers Clark. In the spring of 1781 a company of people from Maryland composed largely of Colonel Clark's veterans, came by boat to Kaskaskia by way of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Other immigrants followed in great covered wagons drawn by oxen or horses, coming from Virginia and the other colonies.

At first their comforts and conveniences were very few, but after a time, as the number of people increased and the fear of the Indians decreased, the settlements became villages, and extensive farms were cultivated, with large herds of sheep. Shadrach Bond, the first Governor of the State, was a member of the first colony that settled in the Illinois country.

THE ILLINOIS RANGERS.

At the opening of the war of 1812 the Indians became very dangerous and Congress assigned four companies of rangers to guard the frontiers of Illinois. The con-

flicts between the red men and the white were frequent and bloody, the British joining with the Indians. But after the treaty of Ghent, by which the war between America and England was ended, the Indians gave no more trouble for a number of years.

THE BLOCK HOUSES AND OLD FT. DEARBORN

As a means of defense against the Indians numerous "block houses" and stockades were built, extending from the Illinois River to the Kaskaskia, thence eastward to the Ohio River, and up this river and the Wabash to Vincennes.

In northern Illinois the most pretentious defense against the Indians was Fort Dearborn, which was erected at the mouth of the Chicago River in 1804. This was garrisoned by only fifty soldiers at the outbreak of the war, and they, by order of General Hull, attempted to escape to Fort Wayne. But they had gone but a few hundred yards when they were attacked by Indians and twenty-three of them, with several women and children, were ruthlessly massacred.

KEEL BOATS.

The necessity of using the Mississippi River for transporting the products of the country to New Orleans, and bringing back goods purchased there, gave rise to a class of men who made a business of such transportation in what were called keel-boats.

Many pirates and savages infested the banks of the river and the keel-boatmen had many a conflict with

them in defending their cargoes, until, in 1797, Spain placed a large fleet of armed boats on the river, which quickly cleared it of these outlaws.

STATEHOOD AND THE CONSTITUTIONS.

The Territory of Illinois was organized in 1809, and Ninian Edwards was appointed first Governor of the Territory.

The "Bank of Illinois" was established at Shawneetown in 1816, and the following year other banks were located at Kaskaskia and Edwardsville.

The people clamored for admission into the Union as a State, but by the ordinance of 1787 a population of 60,000 was necessary. Congress, therefore, passed an "enabling act" reducing the requirement to 40,000, and a questionable census reported the required number.

In the bill admitting Illinois as a State it was provided that three-fifths of the five per cent fund from the sale of public lands should be devoted to "the encouragement of education," and that one-sixth of this sum should be used exclusively for the establishing and maintenance of a university or college. It was also provided that the northern boundary of the State should be extended to the parallel of forty-two degrees and nine minutes, north latitude, which was fifty-one miles north of the line indicated by the ordinance of 1787. This placed the site of Chicago in Illinois instead of Wisconsin.

In July, 1818, thirty-three delegates met in Kaskaskia to draft a State constitution. The convention adjourned

August 26, and on December 3d of the same year Illinois became the eighth state added to the original thirteen.

A new constitution was adopted in 1848, and a third in 1870.

THE FIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY.

The first slaves in Illinois were 500 natives of San Domingo, brought to Fort Chartres in 1721 by Philip Renault to work in the gold and silver mines which the Commercial Company expected to open. As no gold and silver were found, there were no mines to work, and the slaves were sold to the French settlers.

But slavery never flourished in Illinois. The "Ordinance of 1787" prohibited slavery in the Northwest Territory, and in 1818 Illinois was admitted as a free State.

At the election in 1822 Edward Coles, a native of Virginia and a strong anti-slavery man, was elected Governor. A majority of the Legislature favored slavery, and a resolution was adopted submitting to a vote of the people the question whether Illinois should be a slave state or not, hoping to secure an amendment of the constitution. This led to a most bitter and exciting political contest. Governor Coles contributed his entire salary, $4,000, as a campaign fund. The anti-slavery party won by 1,800 majority.

THE MURDER OF LOVEJOY.

Elijah P. Lovejoy, editor of "The Observer," a religious paper published in St. Louis, fearlessly attacked the institution of slavery in the columns of his paper.

His office was assaulted by a mob and completely destroyed. He then moved to Alton, in a free state, and attempted to re-establish his paper, but mobs destroyed his press twice. A fourth press was purchased by his friends. It arrived on the night of November 7, 1837. The next night a drunken mob attacked the warehouse where it was stored. In the building were Mr. Lovejoy and a few friends, who had armed themselves to defend the property. The mob set fire to the building and shot the men within. This event created great excitement throughout the state.

OUR STATE CAPITALS.

The first capital of Illinois was Kaskaskia, chosen in 1809, when the Territory of Illinois was separated from that of Indiana.

The second was Vandalia. The temporary State House was occupied first in December, 1820. This house was burned in 1823, and a commodious brick structure was at once erected, the citizens contributing $3,000 toward the cost. The building was replaced by a still more pretentious one in 1836, the citizens paying the expense in order to prevent the removal of the capital. But in 1837 the capital was removed to Springfield and the state refunded to Vandalia the $16,000 which the building had cost. The new State House in Springfield was built at an expense of $200,000. But so rapid was the growth of the State that in 1868 the corner stone was laid for the present magnificent State House, which cost $4,260,000.

NAUVOO AND THE MORMONS.

The sect of Mormons came from Missouri to Illinois in the winter of 1838-39 and settled in Hancock county, calling their village Nauvoo. But the Mormons became unpopular in Illinois, as they had been in Missouri, and the people threatened such violence against the leaders, Joseph Smith and his brother Hyram, that they gave themselves up to the sheriff. On June 27, 1844, they were assassinated at the hands of a mob. Then followed dissentions among the Mormons themselves, and in 1846 most of them migrated to Salt Lake, Utah, under the leadership of Brigham Young, but many dissenters separated from the main body and in 1860 chose Joseph Smith, a son of the founder of Mormonism, to be their president and settled at Lamoni, Iowa.

TRANSPORTATION.

Railroads. The first railroad in Illinois was "The Great Northern Cross," begun May 9, 1838, at Meredosia. This was only ten years after the building of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, the first one in the United States. This road was completed to Springfield, at an expense of $1,000,000, but was sold at auction for $21,100.

In 1837 the Legislature passed a bill providing state aid for the improvement of navigation on the Illinois, Wabash, Rock and Kaskaskia Rivers, and also for building several railroads. In 1850 Congress gave the Illinois Central Railroad Company 3,000,000 acres of land for the

construction of a road through the whole length of the State. In return the Illinois Central Railroad Company pays into the state treasury annually seven per cent of its gross earnings in place of the usual taxes. This percentage has already made an annual income for the state of over one million dollars, and a total up to 1905 of $23,264,987.70. There are more miles of railroad to-day in the State of Illinois than in any other State in the Union.

Canals. By an act of Congress the state was authorized to "open a canal through the land to connect the Illinois River with Lake Michigan." The land for ninety feet on each side of the canal was granted to the state. It was estimated that the canal would cost $700,000, but after $1,500,000 had been spent work was suspended until a grant was obtained from Congress giving the state the alternate sections of public land for five miles on each side of the canal along its entire route, amounting to 2,243,323 acres.

The work was completed in twelve years. The canal was sixty feet wide at the ground level, thirty-six feet wide at the bottom, and six feet deep.

The first complete trip of 100 miles was made in April, 1848.

In 1865 Chicago enlarged and deepened the channel so that it might assist in clearing the Chicago River of accumulated filth. After the great fire of 1871 the state promptly repaid the city the money it had expended on the canal.

The canal has earned more than twice as much as was

spent in its construction. The United States Government was given control of the canal in 1882, and it became a national waterway.

ILLINOIS IN THE MEXICAN WAR.

Illinois furnished six regiments for the Mexican War, though her quota was only three. The First and Second Illinois Regiments were engaged in the battle of Buena Vista, and many men were buried on that bloody field. The Third and Fourth Regiments were engaged in the storming of Vera Cruz, and in the capture of the City of Mexico; also in the battle of Cerro Gordo.

LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS.

Early in the spring of 1830 Abraham Lincoln, with his parents, came into Illinois as immigrants from Indiana, Lincoln being then twenty-one years of age. The family settled on the Sangamon River, about ten miles south of Decatur.

Young Lincoln needed new clothes, and being without money, he bargained with a woman to make four hundred rails for every yard of cloth she would use in making him a pair of trousers. He had to split 1,400 rails for his trousers.

Setting out to earn an independent living, he became clerk in a store at New Salem. He was captain of a company in the Black Hawk War. After the close of the war he became postmaster. He was chosen to represent the people of his district in the State Legislature. In

1837 he settled at Springfield and took up the practice of law. In 1846 he was elected to Congress. During this year, in company with Stephen A. Douglas, he made a tour of the State discussing the subject of slavery in the territory obtained from Mexico.

Lincoln was nominated for President of the United States at a convention of the Republican party held in Chicago in 1860. His election precipitated the Civil War.

ILLINOIS IN THE GREAT WAR.

The State of Illinois furnished 260,000 men for the great Civil War. Only New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio furnished a larger number. Only Kansas furnished a larger number in proportion to her population.

General U. S. Grant was a citizen of Galena when he first entered the army as a volunteer.

Other illustrious generals from Illinois were President C. E. Hovey, of the State Normal School; John A. Logan, John A. McClernand, Richard Oglesby, John M. Palmer, John A. Rawlins, John Pope, and many others.

Illinois troops were engaged in battles in all parts of the great battlefield, and everywhere distinguished themselves for their bravery and excellent discipline.

The Stay-at-Homes. Among those who did not enter the army were many who sympathized with the South. Plans were formed by these persons to liberate the Confederate prisoners held at Rock Island and Chicago, and even to burn the city of Chicago. But a society known as the "Union League of America" was formed in Taze-

well county, in 1862, which did much to check the plans of the "copperheads," as the Southern sympathizers were called. The great majority of those who stayed at home were as loyal as the soldiers themselves, and did much to aid the Union cause.

CHICAGO.

After the rebuilding of Fort Dearborn in 1816, John Kinzie, with his family, returned to his former home, but for eleven years only six or eight other families took up their residence there. In 1829 the Illinois and Michigan Canal was surveyed and commissioners arrived to lay out a town. The official plat embraced the territory now lying between Madison, State, Kinzie and Halsted streets.

The two branches of the Chicago River naturally divided the town site into three parts, north, south and west.

Cook county was organized in 1830. At first it included five other counties besides its present territory.

The first school was opened in 1830, in a log cabin near what is now the corner of Randolph street and Michigan avenue.

In 1833 Chicago had its first post-office and weekly mail.

The Legislature incorporated "the City of Chicago" in 1837. William B. Ogden was elected first mayor on the first Tuesday in May, 1837.

The population at that time was 4,179.

The land surface was only a few feet above the level

of the lake, and was often entirely covered with water. Therefore the city raised the grade of the streets and the buildings were elevated to conform to the new grade.

The Water Supply. In 1839 a reservoir was erected at the corner of Michigan avenue and Water street. Water was pumped into this from the lake and distributed in pipes throughout the city.

In 1851 a crib, 20x40 feet, was sunk in the lake 600 feet from the shore, and from this the water was conducted to the lake front and collected in a well twenty-five feet deep. Here a two-hundred horsepower engine forced the water through the distributing pipes. In 1862 one hundred and five miles of water pipe had been laid.

In 1860 the population numbered over 100,000, and a better system of drainage was required.

In 1863 a larger crib was constructed three miles from the shore, and a tunnel built beneath the lake, which cost the city a million of dollars.

In 1869 the first tunnel under the river was constructed joining Washington street on the south and west sides.

Two years later the LaSalle street tunnel was constructed, connecting the north and south sides.

Later the Chicago River was joined to the Illinois and Michigan Canal by extensive cutting away of rock and other barriers for miles, and the water of the river began to flow away from its mouth. This greatly purifies the water and improves the drainage.

The Great Fire. On the night of October 8, 1871, fire

broke out in the southwestern part of the city, and in an incredibly short time was under such headway that no human agency could stop it. Substantial structures of iron and stone melted like wax as the mad flames swept onward through the heart of the city. The river proved to be no barrier, and the whole business portion and thousands of residences were consumed.

A hundred thousand people were rendered homeless and huddled together on the prairie west of the city.

Seventeen thousand five hundred buildings, covering 2,124 acres, and valued at $150,000,000, were swept away by the flames.

Donations were sent from all civilized portions of the globe, amounting to $7,000,000. A special session of the Legislature gave the city $3,000,000, which it had spent in deepening the canal.

The World's Fair. The World's Fair Columbian Exposition was formally opened May 1, 1893, at Jackson Park, which had been specially prepared for it. Congress appropriated $10,000,000 to aid in promoting the enterprise. It was the greatest achievement of the kind the world had ever known.

The Drainage Canal. This great work was begun in 1893 and completed in 1900. It had become a necessity on account of the incomplete drainage of the city. The canal is 28 miles in length. It is the greatest artificial waterway ever constructed. The flow is over 360,000 cubic feet a minute.

The canal cost over $33,000,000.

More than 100,000 men were employed in constructing

it; $20,000,000 of the expense was furnished by the city of Chicago to make it large enough to serve as a ship canal from the lakes to the rivers and the Gulf, and thus make Chicago an Atlantic seaport.

Chicago now has a population of about 2,250,000, and is the greatest grain market, the greatest live stock market, and the greatest railroad center in the world.

OUR STATE INSTITUTIONS.

State Penitentiaries. The first State's Prison in Illinois was erected at Alton in 1827. In 1860 this was abandoned for a new and much larger prison at Joliet, capable of containing 1,000 prisoners. Another has since been constructed at Chester.

The Deaf and Dumb. The Asylum for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb was built at Jacksonville and opened January 26, 1846. It is now the largest school of the kind in the world.

Asylums for the Insane. A mile south of Jacksonville is located the State Hospital for the Insane.

The Northern Home for the Insane is located at Elgin. Another is located at Anna, another at Kankakee, and another at Watertown, near Rock Island.

Institution for the Blind. In 1849 a State School for the Blind was opened at Jacksonville, which is now ranked as one of the best in the world.

The School for Feeble Minded Children is located at Lincoln.

At Normal the State maintains the Illinois Soldiers' Orphans' Home, a home for the intellectual, moral and

physical development of children whose fathers served in the Union army or navy during the Civil War.

The Illinois Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary is located at Chicago. The State furnishes about two-thirds of its support.

At Quincy is a home for soldiers and sailors which cost the state $200,000.

At Pontiac is the Juvenile Reform School.

All these institutions except the penitentiaries are managed by a Board of State Commissioners of Public Charities. The expense of maintaining them falls uniformly upon the people of the entire state.

EDUCATION.

The constitution of the state provides liberally for the maintenance of a free public school system, and prohibits the legislature, counties, cities and towns from making any appropriation for, or paying any money to aid any denominational college, seminary or literary or scientific institution.

The first public schools supported by the state were authorized by an act of the legislature passed in 1825. This act was so unpopular, however, that it was repealed four years later.

McKendree College, at Lebanon, established in 1828, is the oldest college in the State.

Illinois College, at Jacksonville, was opened in 1829.

Knox College was founded in 1837, and the city of Galesburg grew up around it.

The Monticello Female Seminary, at Godfrey, was founded in 1835.

The first State Superintendent of Public Instruction was Ninian W. Edwards, son of the former Governor, elected in 1854.

No other state except New York expends more money for educational purposes than Illinois.

The Normal Schools. In 1857 the legislature passed a law establishing a "State Normal University" to qualify teachers for the common schools of the state. This was located near Bloomington, and the city of Normal sprang up around it.

In 1874 the "Southern Illinois Normal University" was located at Carbondale.

Other state normal schools have since been established at Charleston, DeKalb and Macomb.

The State University. The "Illinois Industrial University," now styled the University of Illinois, is located between Urbana and Champaign.

The Northwestern University is located at Evanston. the University of Chicago at Chicago, Lake Forest College at Lake Forest.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

The present constitution of the State was adopted in 1870.

The Senate consists of fifty-one senators, elected for four years.

The House of Representatives consists of 153 members, elected for two years.

The legislative sessions are biennial.

The pay of Senators and Representatives is five dollars per day, ten cents a mile for actual mileage and fifty dollars per session for postage, stationery, etc.

The Executive Department of the State consists of a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Attorney General, all elected by the people for a period of four years, except the Treasurer, whose term is two years.

The Judicial Department consists of a Supreme Court, Circuit Courts, County Courts, Justices of the Peace and Police Magistrates.

The Supreme Court consists of seven judges, elected by the people of their respective districts for a term of nine years.

The Circuit Courts are held in judicial circuits of 100,000 inhabitants, and the circuit judges hold office for six years. A county with more than 100,000 inhabitants forms a single judicial circuit.

Every male citizen of the United States above twenty-one years of age, who has resided in the state one year, in the county ninety days, and in the election district thirty days next preceding an election is a legal voter at state elections.

All votes are by ballot.

GOVERNORS OF ILLINOIS.

1. SHADRACK BOND.....1818
   Pierre Menard, Lt. Gov.
2. EDWARD COLES.....1822
   Adolphus Hubbard, Lt. Gov.
3. NINIAN EDWARDS.....1826
   Wm. Kinney, Lt. Gov.
4. JOHN REYNOLDS.....1830
   Zadoc Casey, Lt. Gov,
5. EWING (L. D.), 15 days.....1834
6. JOSEPH DUNCAN.....1834
   A. M. Jenkins, Lt. Gov.
7. THOS. CARLIN.....1838
8. THOS. FORD.....1842
   John Moore, Lt. Gov.
9. A. G. FRENCH.....1846
   Jos. B. Wells, Lt. Gov.
10. A. G. FRENCH.....1850
    Wm. Murtry, Lt. Gov.
11. JOEL MATTESON.....1853
    G. Koerner, Lt. Gov.
12. WM. H. BISSELL.....1857
    John Wood, Lt. Gov
13. RICHARD YATES.....1861
    Frances A. Hoffman, Lt. Gov.
14. RICHARD J. OGLESBY.....1865
    Wm. Bross, Lt. Gov.
15. JOHN M. PALMER.....1869
    John Dougherty, Lt. Gov.
16. RICHARD J. OGLESBY.....1873
    J. L. Beveridge, Lt. Gov.,
    and Served as Governor.....1873
17. SHELBY M. CULLOM.....1877
    Andrew Sherman, Lt. Gov.
    Re elected.....1881
18. JOHN M. HAMILTON.....1883
19. R. J. OGLESBY.....1885
20. JOSEPH FIFER.....1889
21. JOHN P. ALTGELD.....1893
22. JOHN R. TANNER.....1897
23. RICHARD YATES, Jr.....1901
24. CHARLES S. DENEEN.....1905

NOTABLE ILLINOIS DATES.

First Constitutional Convention, July, 1818.

Counties represented all at that time organized in the State. Kaskaskia the capital.

1. Randolph.
2. Madison.
3. Gallatin.
4. Johnson.
5. Pope.
6. Jackson.
7. Crawford.
8. Bond.
9. Union.
10. Washington.
11. Franklin.

Kaskaskia had three Territorial and one State Legislature.

1820—Capital changed to Vandalia.

1825—La Fayette visits Illinois by invitation of Gov. Coles.

1826—State income.....$35,400
State expenses.....21,304

Cash in Treasury.....$14,096

1832—Black Hawk War.

1832—Chicago Population, 396.

1834—State Bank Capital, $2,000,000.

1838—Illinois and Michigan Canal construction pushed.

1840—Nauvoo and Mormons.

1839—Capital changed to Springfield and the second session of the 11th General Assembly convened there Dec. 9.

1848—Second Constitutional Convention at Springfield, June 7, 1847. Constitution adopted, March.

1850—Abolition Party in Illinois.

1858—Great Political Debate between Lincoln and Douglas.

1871—Chicago Fire.

1893—World's Fair in Chicago.

JO DAVIESS 24,538
STEPHENSON 34,933
WINNEBAGO 47,846
BOONE 15,791
MC HENRY 29,759
LAKE 84,504
CARROLL 18,968
OGLE 29,129
DE KALB 31,756
KANE 78,792
DU PAGE 28,196
1,838,738
WHITESIDE 34,710
LEE 29,894
KENDALL 11,467
ROCK ISLAND 65,249
HENRY 40,049
BUREAU 41,112
LA SALLE 87,778
GRUNDY 24,136
WILL 74,764
MERCER 20,945
PUTNAM 4,745
KANKAKEE 37,154
STARK 10,186
MARSHALL 16,870
HENDERSON 10,898
KNOX 48,812
WARREN 43,612
PEORIA 88,606
WOODFORD 21,822
LIVINGSTON 42,089
IROQUOIS 86,014
HANCOCK 32,216
MC DONOUGH 28,412
FULTON 48,201
TAZEWELL 38,221
MC LEAN 67,848
FORD 18,859
SCHUYLER 16,126
MASON 17,491
LOGAN 26,690
DE WITT 18,972
CHAMPAIGN 47,822
VERMILLION 65,835
ADAMS 67,059
BROWN 11,567
CASS 17,222
MENARD 14,336
MACON 44,003
PIATT 17,705
MORGAN 36,608
SCOTT 10,488
SANGAMON 71,593
MOULTRIE 15,224
DOUGLAS 19,097
EDGAR 28,273
PIKE 31,595
CHRISTIAN 32,780
COLES 34,146
GREENE 23,402
SHELBY 32,126
CUMBERLAND 16,124
CLARK 24,033
CALHOUN 9,617
MACOUPIN 42,256
MONTGOMERY 30,836
JERSEY 14,612
FAYETTE 25,085
EFFINGHAM 20,466
JASPER 20,160
CRAWFORD 19,240
MADISON 64,694
BOND 16,078
CLAY 19,588
RICHLAND 16,391
LAWRENCE 16,523
CLINTON 19,624
MARION 30,448
ST. CLAIR 86,685
WASHINGTON 19,528
JEFFERSON 28,133
WAYNE 27,826
EDWARDS 10,345
WABASH 12,985
MONROE 13,847
RANDOLPH 28,001
PERRY 19,830
FRANKLIN 30,676
HAMILTON 20,197
WHITE 25,388
JACKSON 33,871
WILLIAMSON 27,766
SALINE 21,885
GALLATIN 10,836
UNION 22,610
JOHNSON 15,667
POPE 13,885
HARDIN 7,448
ALEXANDER 19,984
PULASKI 14,554
MASSAC 13,110
MAP OF
ILLINOIS
SHOWING
COUNTY BOUNDARIES
AND
POPULATION
Census of 1900

INDEX

Abolitionists, 154.
Age of Ice, 19.
Age of Mammoth, 19.
Agricultural Worth, 20.
Algonquin, 21.
Alton, 16, 130.
Allouez, Father, 35.
Ampudia, General, 182.
Apple River Fort, 32.
Arkansas River, 42.
Armstrong, Fort, 30, 33.
Asylum, for Insane, 225, 226.
Atkinson, Gen., 30.
Bacon, S., 226.
Bagley, Rev. David, 119.
Bank of Illinois, 142.
Bank, Edwardsville, 142.
Bank, Kaskaskia, 142.
Barbeau, 116.
Barracks, Jefferson, 33.
Barter with Indians, 51.
Beausoleil, Island, 134.
Bissell, Colonel, 179.
Black-Hawk, 25, 127, 29, 30.
Black-Hawk War, 29, 190.
Blind, Institute for the, 226.
Block Houses, 129.
Bond, Shadrach, 122, 146, 147.
Boundary, Illinois, 144.
Buena Vista, 180.
Burgoygne, 121.
Burgess, 124.
Booth, J. W., 194.
Bowman, Captain, 101.
Browning, Orville, 225.
Burlington Limestone, 19.
Cacassotte, 134.
Cahokia, 79, 85, 87, 102, 103, 116.
Cairo, 173, 174, 176.
Canals, 176, 177, 178.
Campbell, Lieutenant, 126, 127.
Campbell, Thompson, 162.
Carlin, Thomas, Gov., 167.
Carlyle, 158.
Carpenter, 136.
Cartier, Jacques, 33.
Catholic Missionaries, 33.
Centralia, 172.
Chartres, Fort, 86, 130, 149.
Character of La Salle, 62.
Cherokees, 21.
Chicago, 209 to 223.
Chicago River, 45, 131.
Chickasaws, 89.
Chickasaw Tribe, 21.
Choctaws, 21.
Choteau, 148.
Civil War, 199.
Clark, Geo. Rogers, 97 to 111.
Clark's Advance, 99.

Clark and the Indians, 105.
Clark, Gov., 126.
Coalfields, 18, 19.
Coles, Ed., Gov., 149.
Colleges, Denominational, 231.
Connecticut, 112.
Constitutions, 145.
Constitution, 1870, 147.
Convention, Const., 145, 146
Council of Utica, 46.
Council of Revision, 145.
Course of Mississippi, 43.
Covington, 125.
Cowpens, 121.
Creek, Indians, 21.
Crève Coeur, Fort, 58.

Davis, Col. Jefferson, 182.
Deaf and Dumb, 225.
Dearborn, Fort, 31, 131, 132.
Decatur, 163.
Delawares, 22.
Dement, Col., 32.
Denominational Colleges, 231.
Des Moines River, 33, 41.
Detroit Straits, 52.
Distribution of Indians, 23, 24, 25.
Dix, D., 225.
Dixon, Mrs., 31.
Donelson, Fort, 201.
Douay, Father, 76.
Douay's Murder, 76.
Douglas, Judge, 167.
Douglas, Stephen A., 193.
Drainage Canal, 220.
Duc de Chartres, 86.

Eads, Bridge, 16.
Early Fauna, 18.
Early Forests, 18.
Early Vegetation, 18.
Edgar, John, 93, 116.
Education in Illinois, 229.
Educational Institutions, 229, 234.
Edwards, Ninian, 130, 141.
Edwardsville, 130.
Election, State Officers, 1818, 145.
England, 19.
English Govt. Policy, 92.
Equality, 129.
Eries, 21.
Father Marquette Sick, 45.
Fayette, N. Y., 166.
Fayette County, 160.
Feasts, Indian, 39, 43, 57.
Fink, Mike, 135.
First Sight of Miss., 38.
Five Nations, 21.
Flat Boats, 83.
Florida, 19.
Fort Building, 74.
Fort Crève Coeur, 58.
Fort Chartres, 86, 89, 91, 130.
Fort Dearborn, 129, 131.
Fort Frontenac, 48, 68.
Fort Frontenac Rebuilt, 49.
Fort Patrick Henry, 111.
Fort Hills, 123.
Fort St. Louis, 26, 74, 75.
Forts, Stockade, 129.
French and British Occupation, 31.

French Trading Co., 86.
Frontenac, 35, 48, 49.
Gaines, Gov., 30.
Galena, 16.
Galenite, 16.
Gallatin, Albert, 177.
General Assembly, 125.
Ghent, Treaty of, 128.
Gibault, Father, 102.
Governors, 237.
Grand Tower, 134.
Grant, U. S., 144, 201.
Green Bay, 45.
Greenville, 123.
Gulf of Mexico, 19, 43.
Hall, 31.
Hanks, John, 186.
Hardin, J. J., Col., 179.
Harrison, Gen., 29.
Heald, Capt., 131.
Helm, Capt., 102, 103, 106.
Henry, Gen., 32.
Henry, Patrick, 98.
Higgins, Tom, 123.
Hills, Fort, 123.
Hog and Hominy, 121.
Howard, Gen., 126.
Hugo, Victor, 33.
Hull, Gen., 131.
Hurons, 21.
Illinois, 15.
Illinois After Revolutionary War, 112.
Illinois, Bank of, 142.
Illinois Central R. R., 172, 175.
Illinois Country, 22.
Illinois Indians, 24, 26, 45.
Illinois Pioneers, 117.
Illinois River, 44.
Illinois River Reached, 55.
Illiopolis, 161.
Immaculate Conception Mission, 36.
Independence, Mo., 166.
Indian, The, 21.
Indiana, 112, 141.
Indian Country, 126.
Indian Characteristics, 22, 23.
Indian Feast, 57.
Indian Lands Sold, 92, 93.
Indians, Fear of, 121.
Indian Tribes, 21, 29.
Insane Asylum, 225, 226.
Institution for the Blind, 226.
Institution for Deaf and Dumb, 225.
Iowa, 126.
Iroquois, 21, 25, 26, 63.
Jacksonville, 161, 225, 226.
Johnny Cake and Johnny Bread, 118.
Joliet, 19.
Jolliet and Marquette, 33.
Jones, Rice John, 116.
Jourdan's Fort, 130.
Juvenile Reform School, 228.
Kahokias, 24, 92.
Kaskaskia, 44, 78, 85, 115, 116, 129.
Kaskaskias, 24.
Keelboats, 133.
Keokuk Indian Chief, 29, 30.
Keokuk Limestone, 19.
Kickapoos, 23.

Kirtland, Ohio, 166.
Lake Michigan, 44.
Lamoni, Iowa, 169.
La Salle, 48.
La Salle's Enemies, 57.
La Salle's Return, 68.
La Salle and the Miamis, 69.
La Salle Visits France, 50.
Latter Day Saints 1st Church, 166, 169.
Laws, Slavery, 150, 151.
Lemon, James, 122.
Lightfoot, 135.
Limestone, 19.
Lincoln, 162, 185, 195.
Lindley, 130.
Log Rolling, 121.
"Long Knives," 101.
Louis XV., 84.
Lovejoy, E. P., Rev., 154.
Loss of Griffin, 54.
Lye Hominy, 120.
Mackinac Mission, 35, 47.
Mackinaw, Little, 116.
Makarty, 89.
Marquette and Jolliet, 33.
Marquette, 45.
Marquette, Death of, 47.
McKee, Col., 183.
Marietta, 115.
Massachusetts, 112.
Mather-lot, 163.
Membré and Ribourde, 62.
Membré, Father, 24.
Menard, Pierre, 147, 148.
Miamis, 23.
Mexican War, 179.
Miamis and La Salle, 69.
Michigamies, 24.
Michigan, State, 112.
Milk-Sick, 119.
Miller, Mrs., 186.
Missionaries, Jesuit, 22.
Mississippi River, 38.
Mission, First, 47.
Miss. Valley, a French Colony, 73.
Missouri River, 41.
Mohegans, 22.
Moore, James, 117.
Monmouth, 19.
Monroe, Fortress, 33.
Montreal, 33.
Mormon, Book of, 165, 166.
Mormons, 165-169.
Moulen, John C. de, 116.
Muskogees, 21.
Naperville, 31.
Naragansetts, 22.
Nauvoo and the Mormons, 165, 166, 167.
New Design, 119.
New France, 33.
New Orleans, 133.
Niagara Limestone, 16.
Nippissing Lake, 35.
Normal Schools, 234.
O'Brien, 181.
Offutt, 186, 188.
Oglesby, Gov., 201.
Ohio River, 41.
Ohio River Reached, 41.
Ohio, 112.
Old Kaskaskia, 78.

Ordinance, 1787, 112, 143.
Ottawa, 31, 44, 177.
Ottawa River, 35.
Palo Alto, 179.
Palmyra, 165.
Paper Currency, 98.
Paris, 87.
Patrick Henry, 98.
Peoria, 24, 161.
Pequots, 22.
Penn, Wm., 22.
Perkins, Geo. W., 228.
Piasa Bluff, 41.
Pierre and Jacques, 45.
Pittsburgh, 133.
Powhattans, 22.
Pope's Bluff, 158.
Pope, Nathaniel, 142.
Pottawottamies, 24, 26, 45.
Prairie du Chien, 32, 116, 126.
Prairie du Rocher, 87.
Pursley, Mrs., 125.
Proclamation by Clark, 109.
Quebec, 33.
Raleigh, Sir Walter, 113.
Railroads, 175.
Rangers, Illinois, 123.
Rapids, 126.
Rector, Capt., 126.
Reform School, 228.
Renault, Philip, 86, 149.
Revision Council, 145.
Reynolds, Gov., 30, 31.
Rigdon, Sidney, 165, 166, 168.
Riggs, Capt., 126, 128.
Riots, Slave, 152.
Rock Island, 30, 126.
Rock River, 30.
Rocky Mountains, 19.
Roger Williams, 22.
Rogers, Capt., 107.
Route to Indies, 48.
Russell, Camp, 130.
Sacs and Foxes, 24, 29.
Salt Springs, 129.
Salaries, 145.
Saguenay River, 34.
Sangamon, 170, 185.
San Domingo, 150.
Santa Anna, 180.
Scouller, Dr., 228.
Scott, Gen., 32.
Seminoles, 21.
Sharon, Vt., 165.
Shawnees, 22, 23.
Shebana, Chief, 31.
Shipbuilding, West, 50.
Short, Capt., 125.
Slavery, 113, 149, 156.
Smith, Capt. John, 22.
Smith, Hiram, 168.
Smith, Joseph, 165, 166, 167, 168.
Soldiers' and Sailors' H., 228.
Songs, War, 206.
Spain, 87, 134.
Spain on the Miss., 134.
Spanish Troops West, 87.
Spaniards, 42.
Spaulding, Solomon, 165.
Springfield, 161.
State Institutions, 224.
St. Peter's Sandstone, 16.
St. Clair County, 116.
St. Clair, Gen., 115.

St. Clair, Wm., 116.
St. Esprit Pt., 35.
St. Ignace, 35.
St. Lawrence, 33.
St. Louis, 91, 128.
St. Philip, 87.
Starved Rock, 16, 26.
State Rights, 193.
State University, 235.
State Superintendent, 234.
Stillman, 31.
Stockades, 129.
Taensas, Indian Town, 71, 72.
Tamaroas, 24.
Taylor, Zachary, 128, 181, 183.
The British at Vincennes, 106.
Territorial Period, 96.
Thornton, Canal Boat, 178.
The Griffin, 51.
Tonti, 50, 60.
Tonti in Trouble, 63.
Tonti Wounded, 66.
Toumey, Capt., 123.
Transportation, 170.
Tuscarawas, 21.
University, Chicago, 236.
University, State, 235.
Vandalia, 125, 158, 192.
Vandals, 158.
Vincennes, 102, 103, 106, 107, 111, 115.
Virginia, 112, 158.
Voyage of Griffin, 52.
Wabash, Grand Door, 103.
Wabash River, 103, 129.
War, 109, 179, 190, 197.
War Songs, 206.
Washington, 115.
Washington County, 125.
Washington's Surrender, 90.
Wendell Phillips, 33.
"What Cheer," 22.
Whigs, 167.
Whiteside, Gen., 31.
Wilbur, Chas. T., 227.
Winnebagoes, 24.
Wisconsin River, 37.
Wisconsin State, 112, 190.
Xavier St., 36.
Young, Brigham, 168.
Zion, City of, 166.

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